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CONFIDENTIAL.

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F.O.
424

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

MRS. FINN'S CLAIMS.

(Turkey).

78

1878-80.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Mrs. Finn's Claims.

No. 1.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 8.)

My Lord, *The Elms, Brook Green, London, W., October* , 1878.

HAVING heard that Mr. Noel Temple Moore, Her Majesty's Consul for Jerusalem, is now in England for the first time since my husband's death, I take the opportunity to solicit most respectfully your Lordship's attention to the treatment which I have received at his hands, and to ask your Lordship to obtain for me some explanation of his neglect of the duties which he incurred when he became trustee of our property, through an arrangement made by order of the Foreign Office, under the following circumstances:—

Shortly after my husband, the late Mr. Finn, was succeeded by Mr. Moore as Consul of Jerusalem, Sir Edmund Hornby arrived there to make inquiries into the murder of a British subject which had occurred in the interval; and having been instructed, in consequence of my husband's representations to the Foreign Office, to investigate fully the condition of our affairs, he went with us through the whole of our accounts, both private and official, for the entire period of our residence in Jerusalem.

After expressing to Mr. Finn his complete satisfaction with the "business-like regularity and exactness" with which our affairs had been conducted, and his entire conviction that the debts in which my husband was involved had been unavoidably incurred in the discharge of his official duties, Sir Edmund drew up a deed, to which my husband gave his consent (as soon as that of the creditors had been obtained), although Sir Edmund had given him no choice of the trustee by whom he should be represented.

By the terms of this deed, Mr. Moore (with one co-trustee, who represented the creditors) was invested with certain plots of land belonging to my husband, and was also empowered to draw a certain portion of my husband's official salary, in trust, to pay off all principal of the debts by instalments, and also to sell the land for benefit of the creditors, who, on their part, agreed to waive all claim to interest, and to give up all the securities in their hands, of which Mr. Moore was to take possession before paying dividends; and Mr. Moore, accompanied by the co-trustee, personally took possession of the land in Sir Edmund's presence, and received and paid over a sum of money to one of the creditors under the deed.

But although Mr. Moore thus became a party to the deed, with and by the authority of the Foreign Office, neither my husband nor I have ever been able to induce him to perform the other duties to which he was thus bound by that deed. He neglected to draw the amount from salary for distribution among the creditors; he neglected to render any account of sums which we sent out to repair his omission; he distributed dividends to creditors without previously obtaining from them the securities; and by all these acts and omissions we have suffered, and I still suffer, loss and damage.

In addition to this I beg to bring before your Lordship's notice two circumstances in which Mr. Moore has failed in his duty as Consul to me as a British subject:—

He has persistently declined, both to myself and to agents whom I have specially accredited to him, to take any steps for the recovery of two sums of money (assessed by Sir Edmund Hornby at about 1,300*l.*) which the Turkish Government, after full

examination, had admitted to be due, and for the immediate payment of which the Grand Vizier had issued stringent orders; and he has caused me great expense, and I have suffered, and am still suffering, much damage from his having absolutely refused to pay my agent, at the proper date, a sum of money which he then denied, but afterwards admitted, to have been lying to my account in his hands; and I have his letters in my possession directly contradicting each other upon this point.

My Lord, my case is a very hard one. The only property which I possess is that which my husband left me, which was placed, by the decree of Sir Edmund Hornby, in the hands of Mr. Moore, through whose negligence it is to all intents and purposes confiscated.

My husband, who held an honourable office for many years, and received numerous proofs of esteem and confidence from the distinguished chiefs under whom he served, has gone to his grave, worn out with disease and burdened with debt incurred in the discharge of his duties, and I can neither vindicate his honour, nor obtain my own and my children's rights, on account of the conduct of the very person whose special duty it is to defend them.

I have, therefore, no other resource than to invoke your Lordship's protection; and as it was under the authority of the Foreign Office that Mr. Moore was put into possession of my property, I earnestly entreat your Lordship to exert that authority in compelling him to account to me for his conduct, and to act in conformity with his duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 2.

Mr. Lister to Mrs. Finn.

Foreign Office, October 19, 1878.

Madam,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, without date, received on the 8th instant, complaining that Mr. Moore, Her Majesty's Consul in Jerusalem, has neglected his duties towards you in regard to the trusteeship of your property. In reply, I am to refer you to the letter which was addressed to you by Lord Derby's directions on the 29th September, 1874, and in pointing out to you that Mr. Moore has never acted as trustee under any authority from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I am to add that Lord Salisbury has nothing to add to the opinion then expressed by Lord Derby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 3.

Mr. Lister to Consul Moore.

Foreign Office, October 19, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you a letter from Mrs. Finn alleging that you have neglected certain duties towards her property.*

His Lordship is aware that you are precluded by your instructions from interfering personally in the affairs of Mrs. Finn in connection with the debts incurred by her husband at Jerusalem, but Lord Salisbury thinks it right that you should have an opportunity of making any remarks which may occur to you on Mrs. Finn's statements.

You will return the inclosed letter with your reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

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* No. 1.

No. 4.

Consul Moore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

Clatterford House, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, October 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's despatch of the 19th instant, transmitting a letter addressed to your Lordship by Mrs. Finn, complaining of neglect of her interests at Jerusalem on my part. In compliance with your Lordship's desire that I should reply thereto, I beg leave to state that I might have objected to Mrs. Finn's bringing forward accusations connected with transactions and arrangements which took place fifteen years ago, at a time when I cannot have access to the documents and correspondence relating to these affairs. I have no hesitation, however, in characterizing Mrs. Finn's statements as either inaccurate or imaginary.

Sir Edmund Hornby came to Jerusalem in consequence of representations made, for special reasons, by me, not by Mr. Finn, to the Secretary of State, in order, not to inquire into the murder of a British subject, but to investigate and endeavour to settle Mr. Finn's affairs.

To the best of my recollection, I was not appointed by Sir E. Hornby a trustee for Mr. Finn's property; another person was so appointed, but he was not to dispose of the property without my sanction. In any case, it was no fault of either of us if no purchaser has ever come forward.

I readily admit that I declined, in the absence of instructions to that effect, to assume a heavy pecuniary responsibility by drawing on Mr. Finn for the instalments of salary for payment of dividends to his creditors. The first instalment was remitted by him to me; this I of course received, and distributed to the creditors, obtaining from each of them, contrary to Mrs. Finn's assertion, the whole of the securities he held, which are now in safe custody in the archives of the Consulate at Jerusalem. Why such remittances—the natural and proper way of making the payments—were not continued, I cannot explain. As to any sums "sent out to repair my omission," besides the above-mentioned remittance, they never reached me.

I have no knowledge of any recognition by the Turkish Government of the claim of £1,300, nor of the stringent orders said to have been issued by the Grand Vizier for its immediate payment.

I do not know to what Mrs. Finn refers in her last accusation, and therefore cannot reply to it, beyond saying that it is certainly inexact, until the alleged circumstances are more clearly stated, and the documents produced, and, in case of need, an opportunity afforded me of referring to the archives and registers of the Consulate.

I return Mrs. Finn's letter, as desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE

No. 5.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

The Elms, Brook Green, W., November 1, 1878.

My Lord,

ILL-HEALTH has delayed my writing, but I have now the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's reply, through Mr. Lister, to my letter of the 8th October (left undated by accident, but sent on that day).

Permit me now respectfully to submit to your Lordship that I did not prefer to Lord Derby the complaints against Mr. Consul Moore's conduct towards me which I have laid before your Lordship, and that, consequently, Lord Derby never gave any decision thereupon.

I therefore humbly ask for your Lordship's decision upon those complaints made by me in my last letter.

I beg to remind your Lordship that Mr. Moore, a Foreign Office Agent, was appointed trustee of my husband's property by the Special Commissioner of the Foreign Office, Sir E. Hornby, and that there is abundant proof that he acted as such with the sanction of the Foreign Office.

I would earnestly press upon your Lordship's consideration that I am but asking not for a favour, but for a right such as the meanest British subject is entitled to ask and obtain, and I pray that, as an act of the commonest justice, the Foreign

Office will call their servant to account, not only for breach of trust, but also for gross failure in his duty as Consul towards me, a British subject.

Hitherto I have been unwilling to press this charge against Mr. Moore, hoping that I might have obtained justice.

Being a widow and without means to undertake expensive law process, I appeal to your Lordship to obtain for me the justice so long withheld. I venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that the correspondence referred to by Mr. Lister is irrelevant to the present matter, and cannot refer to the charges which I am reluctantly advancing against Mr. Consul Moore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 6.

Mr. Lister to Consul Moore.

Foreign Office, November 19, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch of the 28th ultimo relating to the complaint which has been made against you by Mrs. Finn, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that that lady has already been told that Lord Salisbury cannot interfere in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 7.

Mr. Lister to Mrs. Finn.

Foreign Office, November 29, 1878.

Madam,

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st instant, requesting a further consideration of your complaint against Mr. Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, for the alleged neglect of his duties towards you in regard to the alleged trusteeship of your property, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that his Lordship regrets that he can see no reason to depart from the decision with regard to this matter, which has already been communicated to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 8.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

The Elms, Brook Green, London, W., February 21, 1879.

My Lord,

ILLNESS, caused by long-continued over-exertion and anxiety, has prevented my writing till now in reply to Mr. Lister's letter of the 29th November.

I beg respectfully to call your Lordship's attention to the paragraph in my letter of the 8th October, commencing:—

"In addition to this I beg to bring before your Lordship's notice two circumstances in which Mr. Moore has failed in his duty as Consul to me as British subject."

Your Lordship will perceive that in this I charge Mr. Moore with failure in his duty as Consul quite independently of his duties as trustee, and in matters entirely distinct from the trust imposed upon him by the Foreign Office Special Commissioner, Sir E. Hornby.

Both Mr. Lister's communications to me of the 19th October and the 29th November, 1878, deal only with Mr. Moore's breach of trust, and are no reply to this portion of my complaint, which was, however, repeated in my letter of the 1st November, in the specific words "gross failure in his duty as Consul towards me, a British subject."

I very respectfully request to be informed what steps have been taken for the

investigation of so serious a charge against one of Her Majesty's servants, viz., that of gross failure in his duties.

I beg to remind your Lordship that this charge has now been formally before the Foreign Office for more than four months.

But although I have not yet been informed of its having received attention, nothing short of a written refusal to investigate the matter would induce me to consider that a complaint of this kind would be passed over by any Department of Her Majesty's service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 9.

Mr. Lister to Consul Moore.

Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 19th November last, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you a letter from Mrs. Finn regarding the alleged recognition by the Turkish Government of her claim to a sum of 1,300*l.*,* and I am to instruct you to furnish his Lordship with a Report on this point upon your return to your post at Jerusalem.

You will return Mrs. Finn's letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 10.

Mr. Lister to Mrs. Finn.

Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.

Madam,

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that he has instructed Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem to report, upon his return to his post, upon the question of the alleged recognition by the Turkish Government of your claim to 1,300*l.*, in regard to which you accuse Mr. Moore of having failed in his duty as Her Majesty's Consul; and I am to suggest that you should furnish any proofs in support of your claim which may be in your possession.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 11.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

The Elms, Brook Green, London, W., March 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Mr. Lister, dated the 6th March, in reply to mine of the 21st ultimo, and to offer my best thanks to your Lordship for it.

I will lose no time in sending to the Foreign Office copies of the documents in my hands on the subject referred to.

But I beg most respectfully to draw your Lordship's attention to the other points in my letters of the 8th October and the 21st February.

Among other things, I therein laid before your Lordship that Mr. Moore had distributed dividends of our moneys to creditors without previously obtaining from them the securities in their hands, which he was bound to do, and that this has caused, and still causes me, loss and damage.

Further, that he has caused me great expense and damage from his having absolutely refused to pay my agent at the proper date a sum of money which he then denied, but afterwards admitted to have been lying to my account in his hands at the

* No. 8.

time; and that I have his letters in my possession directly contradicting each other upon this point.

It is now five months since I laid these charges before your Lordship. I did so with the utmost reluctance, and not until I had exhausted all other means in my power.

I earnestly trust that your Lordship will cause them to be investigated while Mr. Moore is in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 12.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

The Elms, Brook Green, W., April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in compliance with the desire expressed in Mr. Lister's letter to me of the 6th March, a memorandum, with copies of four documents relating to certain claims which Mr. Consul Moore has neglected and refused to recover for me.

I am provided with evidence to support all the charges preferred by me in my recent letters to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Memorandum.

THE claim for the Urtas Indemnity is for damages done in February 1857 to the Valley of Urtas by a flood maliciously caused by the opening of the sluices of Solomon's Pools, thereby discharging an immense volume of water upon and over the farm at Urtas.

The case was fully laid before the Turkish authorities of Jerusalem, but on finding that I could not obtain redress from them I sent Mr. James Graham (trustee of the Industrial Plantation for Jews near Jerusalem) and Mr. John Meshullam to Constantinople to lay the case before Her Majesty's Ambassador, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

They were furnished with documentary evidence which satisfied Her Majesty's Ambassador and the Turkish Government that the claim was a just one for damages proved to have been wilfully caused by water maliciously sent over the property. His Excellency pressed the matter upon the Turkish Government, and obtained promise of redress and the return of the taxes which had been unjustly levied.

Lord Stratford left Constantinople in 1858 before I had obtained payment, but he wrote to inform me that he had left the case in the hands of his successor, Sir H. Bulwer. I can produce this letter.

When Mr. Alison, Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople, was at Jerusalem in 1860, he came with me and inspected Urtas, and undertook to press for a settlement. And after his appointment to be Her Majesty's Minister in Persia, he wrote to me advising me to apply to Her Majesty's Commissioner for Syria to obtain the settlement from the Turks. This I did, and the Commissioner, Lord Dufferin, obtained from the Turkish Commissioner, Fuad Pasha, an assurance that he had ordered immediate payment, which was not however made to me.

In 1863 Judge Hornby was in Jerusalem by direction of the Foreign Office. Not having yet received payment, I again laid the case before him, and after due inquiry he pressed it upon Her Majesty's Ambassador in Constantinople.

On my return to England I informed Lord Dufferin that I had not yet received payment. His Lordship at once wrote to his Excellency Fuad Pasha, then Grand Vizier at Constantinople, who at once issued stringent orders for immediate payment.

Lord Dufferin informed me of this in a note dated India Office (written in February 1865), of which I add a copy. Sir Edmund Hornby happened to be in England, and I applied to him for a memorandum which I might send to the Foreign Office as to the amount justly due to me.

I append copy of his award on this point.

Both these documents were by me sent to Earl Russell, who informed me, in a letter dated May 19, 1865, that Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, Mr. Moore, had been instructed "to take the necessary steps in the matter."

After some time the Foreign Office informed me that Consul Moore had raised a difficulty to which I was able to furnish a satisfactory reply.

I have, however, never yet received any portion of the indemnity, though several agents of mine have applied to Her Majesty's Consul for it, being duly authorized by me to do so.

The amount due to me in 1863 is stated in Judge Hornby's award, but to this ought now to be added compensation justly due to me for the delay of so many years in my receiving payment.

The claims on account of the Bakoosh vineyards rest on a similar basis. Judge Hornby found in 1863 that Suneyn Pasha of Jerusalem had, in 1862, been formally applied to by me for redress for wilful injuries done to those vineyards by native people in employ of the Greek priest of St. George's Convent close by.

Judge Hornby found that there was no prospect of this man permitting me to occupy the said lands peaceably, and as the Pasha neglected to compel him to do so, he advised that the Turkish Government should compel him to purchase my rights in the said lands for the sum expended upon them, according to the accounts and vouchers examined by Judge Hornby when in Jerusalem.

This matter was by me laid before the Foreign Office with Judge Hornby's award. Earl Russell included this matter in his instructions to Consul Moore, but I have never received any payment, and therefore ask for payment to me of the sum stated by Judge Hornby.

And I submit that as the case has been so long left unsettled that I have suffered great additional loss. I have derived no benefit whatever from the said vineyards of Bakoosh and Karaweesh since the year 1862, and submit that compensation is justly due, and should be made to me for this delay of so many years.

(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

April 4, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Award by Judge Hornby.

AFTER having carefully considered the amount of damage which I conceive the Urtas Gardens sustained by reason of the flood of 1857, I am of opinion that Mrs. Finn is entitled, on behalf of the industrial plantation, to claim the sum of 44,000 piastres, this being the sum at which the original damages were estimated, exclusive of interest.

I conceive also that the Turkish Government should repay the sum of 4,000 piastres per annum since the year 1857, that amount, viz., 32,000 piastres, having been levied as taxes contrary to right.

The two amounts would make 76,000 piastres.

(Signed) EDMUND HORNBY, *Judge, &c.*

The Athenæum Club, February 20, 1865.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Award by Judge Hornby.

I THINK that the Sublime Porte should insist on the Greek Convent of St. George purchasing Mrs. Finn's rights and interests in the Bakoosh and Karaweesh vineyards, the value of which should be assessed at the amount expended upon them by Mrs. Finn on behalf of the Society, namely, 60,000 piastres.

This is the only mode of avoiding (that I can suggest) the constant annoyance offered and provoked by the convent to the peaceable working of those lands.

(Signed) EDMUND HORNBY, *Judge, &c.*

The Athenæum Club, February 20, 1865.

Inclosure 4 in No. 12.

Lord Dufferin to Mrs. Finn.

My dear Mrs. Finn, *India Office* [*no date*].

I HAVE received an intimation from Fuad Pasha that he has issued the most stringent directions to the Pasha of Jerusalem to pay the indemnity due to you on account of the damage done to the Urtas property.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 12.

Mr. Murray to Mrs. Finn.

Madam, *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1865.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to inform you that his Lordship has instructed Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem to take the necessary steps in the matter of the damages done to your property at Urtas and Bakoosh.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAMES MURRAY.

No. 13.

Mr. Lister to Consul Moore.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 14, 1879.

WITH reference to the despatch from this Office of the 6th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from Mrs. Finn containing copies of documents on which she relies in support of her complaint against you.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 24. Consular.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith papers, as marked in the margin,* relative to a claim which has been advanced by Mrs. Finn, widow of a former British Consul at Jerusalem, against the Turkish Government in respect of certain alleged damage done to her property at that place.

Mr. Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, has been instructed to report on the matter on his return to his post, and to send his report through your Excellency under flying seal.

When you receive it I should be glad if you would accompany it with any remarks you may have to make on the matter.

Your Excellency will be good enough at the same time to return the papers inclosed in this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 12, together with another Memorandum, which being in nearly identic terms as Inclosure 1 in No. 12, is not printed.

No. 15.

Mr. Lister to Consul Moore.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1879.

WITH reference to the letter addressed to you from this Office on the 14th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to instruct you to send your reports on Mrs. Finn's claim through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople under flying seal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 16.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

My Lord, *The Elms, Brook Green, W., May* 9, 1879.

ALLOW me to refer your Lordship to my letters of the 8th October and the subsequent dates, in which I advanced against Mr. Consul Moore of Jerusalem complaints of breach of trust and gross failure in duty as Consul to me, a British subject.

I have the honour to inquire whether the report which has reached me can be correct, that Consul Moore has been permitted to leave this country without full investigation having been made, and has returned to Jerusalem to resume his official duties before he has cleared himself of charges so grave.

If this be so, I earnestly protest against the further injury done to me. I humbly submit to your Lordship that, in cases of this nature, delays involve injustice, and that I have already severely suffered from delays interposed, and which have caused me serious losses of various kinds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 17.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mrs. Finn.

Madam, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879.

IN reply to your letter of the 9th instant regarding your complaint against Mr. Consul Moore, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to refer you to the letter from this Office of the 6th March, in which you were told that Mr. Moore had been instructed to report upon the question upon his return to his post, for which he has now left.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 18.

The Bishop of Lincoln to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

My Lord, *Riseholme, Lincoln, May* 19, 1879.

MRS. FINN, widow of the late Consul at Jerusalem, and daughter of the late Dr. McCaul, has asked me to write to your Lordship, and to commend to your favourable consideration her petition for the restoration of some land at Jerusalem to her.

I do not venture to enter into the merits of the case, but will only say that Mrs. Finn has been staying with us, and that we have been very strongly impressed in her favour, not only on account of her intelligence and ability, especially in the addresses which she has delivered on matters connected with the Holy Land, its history, antiquities, &c., especially as illustrative of the Bible, but with her gentleness, delicacy, and refinement, and sense of what is right and honourable.

I beg that your Lordship will not trouble yourself to acknowledge this.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. LINCOLN.

No. 19.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

The Elms, Brook Green, W., May 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sir J. Pauncefote, dated the 14th May, in which I am informed that Mr. Consul Moore has left for his post, and referring me to Mr. Lister's letter of the 6th March, in which I was informed that Consul Moore had been directed to report upon the alleged recognition by the Turkish Government of certain claims of mine.

I most respectfully submit to your Lordship that it is not against neglect of my claims by the Turkish Government, but against breach of trust and neglect of his duty to me as a British subject, on the part of Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Moore himself, that I am under the painful necessity of appealing to your Lordship.

I am prepared to adduce evidence in support of these grave charges, and in proof of the manifold injuries caused to me by the extraordinary conduct to me, during so many years, of Consul Moore.

It was in justice to Mr. Moore as well as to myself, and to avoid if possible entering upon a painful history, that I laid this matter before your Lordship while he was in England.

I regret that I am compelled to pursue it in his absence, and to seek by all possible means for the redress which the case requires.

I respectfully represent the very great inconvenience and trouble occasioned to me by Mr. Moore's departure without meeting the charges advanced by me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Bishop of Lincoln.

Foreign Office, June 2, 1879.

My Lord Bishop,

IN reply to your Lordship's letter of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state that Mr. Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, who has recently returned to his post, has been instructed to furnish a Report on the matter of Mrs. Finn's claim to certain lands in Jerusalem.

The Report will be sent home through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who will also investigate the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 21.

Mr. Lister to Mrs. Finn.

Foreign Office, June 6, 1870.

Madam,

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo regarding your complaint against Mr. Consul Moore, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that his Lordship must wait for the Reports he is expecting from Mr. Moore and from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople upon the subject before he can give any opinion upon it.

It has been impossible for his Lordship to deal with your accusations against Mr. Moore without having a Report from him as to the case in which you allege that he neglected your interests.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 22.

Consul Moore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 15. Consular.)

Jerusalem, May 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's despatch (unnumbered) of the 6th March, instructing me, on my return to my post, to furnish

your Lordship with a Report respecting Mrs. Finn's claims on the Turkish Govern" ment. I have since received Mr. Lister's further despatches (unnumbered) of the 14th and 23rd April on the same subject.

I beg leave to state, in reply, that all the information I can lay before your Lordship is contained in a despatch addressed by me on this subject to Earl Russell in 1865, of which I transmit a copy, together with its inclosures. Your Lordship will thereby perceive the position taken up by the then Governor of Jerusalem, Izzet Pasha, in the matter. No reply having been received by me to that despatch, no further progress has been made in the affair.

I inclose a copy of the translation of the Vizirial letter addressed to the Governor, as transmitted to me in Mr. Murray's despatch No. 2 of the 19th May, 1865, and referred to in my Report, as it may be of use to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, through whom I send this despatch under flying seal as directed.

It will be observed that no mention is made in the Vizirial letter of the claims connected with the Bakoosh and Karaweesh vineyards.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Consul Moore to the Earl of Clarendon.

(No. 18. Consular.)

Jerusalem, October 16, 1865.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, through Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, of Mr. Murray's further despatch of the 31st July respecting Mrs. Finn's indemnity claims.

I beg leave to state that in suggesting the appointment of an Agent at Jerusalem for this matter, I did so in the interest, as I conceived, of Mrs. Finn, unaware as I then was of the particulars of which I have since been informed.

On receipt of the above instruction I lost no time in taking the necessary steps in the matter. A pressing personal representation to Izzet Pasha not having had the desired effect, I addressed to his Excellency an official communication, demanding the immediate settlement of the Urtas claim, as well as of that connected with the Bakoosh vineyards. I have the honour to forward a translation of my letter, and of the Pasha's reply, from which your Lordship will perceive that his Excellency affirms that the Vizirial letter transmitted to him on this subject only enjoins an inquiry into the claims, which he offers to institute. I deemed it my duty to ask to see the original order, and found that its purport is as stated by the Pasha. Thus the sense of the passage bearing on this important point in the translation of the Vizirial letter transmitted in Mr. Murray's previous despatch on this subject is at variance with that of the corresponding passage in the order addressed to the Pasha. I requested a copy of the latter, but his Excellency declined to furnish me with one, on the ground that it was unusual to do so.

I informed the Pasha that I could not accept his offer of inquiry, and must adhere to my instructions and the demands based thereon, to which he has replied he must adhere to his.

I must therefore beg leave to report the circumstances to your Lordship and await further instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Consul Moore to Ismail Izzet Pasha.

Jerusalem, September 16, 1865.

Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to bring before your Excellency, officially, the claims of Mrs. Finn for indemnity for damages done to her property at Urtas.

The claims in question have already, I am informed, been admitted by the Government of the Sublime Porte, and a stringent Vizirial order, under date of the 28th Djemad-el-Awal, 1281, directing the payment of the claims, has been received by your Excellency.

I have also to demand an immediate settlement of the claims of the same lady for indemnity for damages inflicted on her property at Bakoosh and Karaweesh.

The claim is for 44,000 piastres, this being the sum at which the original damages were estimated, exclusive of interest, to which amount is to be added the further sum of 4,000 piastres per annum since the year 1857, that amount, namely, 32,000 piastres, having been levied as taxes contrary to right; the two amounts would make 76,000 piastres. The Bakoosh claim is to be settled in the following manner:—

The Greek convent of St. George should be compelled to purchase Mrs. Finn's rights and interest in the Bakoosh and Karaweesh vineyards, the value of which should be assessed at the amounts expended upon them by Mrs. Finn, namely, 60,000 piastres, this being the best mode of avoiding the constant annoyance offered and promoted by the convent to the peaceable working of these lands.

Pursuant to instructions which I have had the honour to receive from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Her Britannic Majesty on the subject of these claims, I have officially to request an immediate settlement of the same by the payment of the sums above enumerated, viz., 76,000 piastres for Urtas and 60,000 piastres for Bakoosh, in all 136,000 piastres.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Ismail Izzet Pasha to Consul Moore.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

13 *Djemad Awal*, 1282 (September 22 / October 4, 1865).

I HAVE received your letter relative to the indemnities claimed by Mrs. Finn, the lady of the ex-British Consul at Jerusalem, in connection with the lands of Urtas and the lands of Bakoosh and Karaweesh, and have understood all that you say on the subject. The Vizirial order which I have received on the subject, and which you refer to, directs me to investigate this matter and its attendant circumstances, as I have no knowledge of the case nor any information about it. I invite you to confer with me in order to inquire into this affair and how it occurred, and the truth about it, as I am ready at any time to investigate the matter in conjunction with you, for without knowledge or information about it I cannot take the necessary measures in the matter.

I avail, &c.
The Governor of Jerusalem,
(Signed) ISMAIL IZZET.

Inclosure 4 in No. 22.

Vizirial Letter to the Governor of Jerusalem.

(Translation.)

22 *Jemad-el-Aval*, 1281 (*October* 17, 1864).

IT having been shown that the lady of the ex-Consul of Great Britain in Jerusalem has not yet received any indemnity for the losses sustained in the events that occurred at Urtas in 1857, and that notwithstanding that the Valley of Urtas should be exempt from taxes, the levying of taxes is still continued on the house belonging to the above-mentioned lady; I beg that you will take steps to indemnify the said lady, guided by the principles on which such questions have hitherto been based, and thus to make an arrangement of which you will inform me.

(Signed) MOHAMMED.

(L.S.) FUAD.

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 62. Consular.)

Therapia, June 20, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's Consular despatch No. 24 of the 23rd April last, I have the honour to inclose a despatch which I have received under flying

seal from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem relative to Mrs. Finn's claim against the Turkish Government.

It would appear from Mr. Moore's statement that no steps in regard to this claim have been taken since the year 1865, and I venture to solicit your Lordship's instructions as to the course which should now be adopted.

I return herewith the original papers inclosed in your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch, in accordance with your instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 24.

Memorandum by Mr. Buckley.

(Consul Moore, No. 15, Consular, May 24, 1879. Sir A. H. Layard, No. 62, Consular, June 20, 1879.)

MR. MOORE'S despatch is the report which was called for in consequence of Mrs. Finn's persistent representations that her interests had been neglected by him.

The correspondence connected with Mr. and Mrs. Finn is very voluminous, and comprises several questions, which, however, may be broadly divided into two classes, viz.:—

1. The points arising out of Mr. Finn's debts, and money owing to him in connection with his farming operations; and,

2. The points connected with damage done to Mrs. Finn's property at Urtas and Bakoosh, and her consequent claims on the Turkish Government.

There is also a question about money which Mrs. Finn says is due to her in connection with a mortgage on the Urtas property, and which, she says, ought to have been collected by Mr. Moore and handed over to Mr. Finn's creditors. This question, therefore, appears to relate partly to Class 1 and partly to Class 2.

Before Mr. Finn's death a determination was come to, not to interfere in the 1st Class, and this has been adhered to by successive Secretaries of State up to the present time.

The correspondence which Mrs. Finn has recently again started began with her letter of the 8th October, 1878, and dealt in a very vague sort of way with both categories of her grievances. The question, however, has now become narrowed to the Urtas and Bakoosh claims, as set forth in her letter of the 4th April, to which Mr. Moore's report relates.

On the 15th May, 1865, Mrs. Finn wrote to the Foreign Office inclosing copies and translations of documents tending to show that compensation ought to be given her on account of these claims, and that, at least as regards the damage done to the Urtas property by a flood, a Vizirial letter had been issued by Fuad Pasha ordering compensation to be paid to her.

Mrs. Finn's letter was sent to Consul Moore with instructions to see that the orders given by the Porte were duly carried into effect, and to recover the sums due to Mrs. Finn on account of these claims. — To Consul Moore, No. 2: May 19, 1865.

Mr. Moore reported in reply that the Governor of Jerusalem was then absent, and that in order that the matter might be put into form against his return, it would be well that Mrs. Finn should appoint an agent to produce the necessary evidence and information which would certainly be required before the case would be looked into. — Consul Moore, No. 13; June 21. 1865.

Mr. Moore added that he was quite ignorant of the facts of the case, but that he would of course afford his official support to such an agent.

To this Mrs. Finn replied that there could be no necessity for an agent, as Mr. James Graham had eight years before established the justice of her claim to the satisfaction of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and the Turkish authorities, and that she had been informed by Lord Dufferin that he had received an intimation from Fuad Pasha that he had issued the most stringent directions to the Pasha of Jerusalem to pay the indemnity due to her. Under those circumstances, she did not apprehend that any difficulty of the kind suggested by Mr. Moore would be raised by the Turkish authorities. On this an instruction was sent to Mr. Moore to get the matter arranged, — Mrs. Finn, July 26, 1865. — To Consul Moore, No. 6; July 30, 1865.

To Mr. Eldridge, No. 12; August 1, 1865.
Consul Moore, No. 18; October 16, 1865.

and a despatch was also written to Mr. Eldridge instructing him to see that Mr. Moore took such decided steps as would bring the matter to a conclusion. Mr. Moore accordingly represented the case to Izzet Pasha, the Governor of Jerusalem, in a pressing manner, both personally and in writing, but found that the Vizirial letter on which Mrs. Finn so much depended, and of which she sent a so-called translation in her letter to the Foreign Office of the 15th May, 1865, was not at all in the sense she represented, but merely enjoined an inquiry into her claims. The despatch reporting this is the one of which a copy is inclosed in Mr. Moore's present despatch. This version of the case was confirmed by a despatch from Mr. Eldridge, who paid a visit to Jerusalem at this time. Mr. Eldridge sent home a translation of the Vizirial letter, which is as follows:—

Mr. Eldridge, No. 9; January 29, 1866.

"It has been brought to my notice that up to this time Mrs. Finn, wife of the late Consul at Jerusalem, has not received the amount of indemnities promised to her which she claims for losses she sustained in 1857 on account of her house situated at Urtas, and that, although the Valley of Urtas is exempted from property taxes, Mrs. Finn is being made to pay taxes on the said house. It has been, therefore, requested that the above claim for indemnity should be paid to her, and that she should enjoy the same exemption from paying taxes on her property above stated.

"I therefore desire that your Excellency will settle these points, after an inquiry into the origin and grounds thereof, and report the result to me.

(Signed) "Mohammed Fuad."

It will be seen that this is very different from the wording of the document which Mrs. Finn sent here, and of which a copy is inclosed in Mr. Moore's present despatch.*

Mr. Eldridge states that he could find no evidence to bear out Mrs. Finn's statement that the justice of her claims had been acknowledged by Her Majesty's Ambassador and the Turkish authorities.

Mr. Eldridge, No. 10; January 29, 1866.

Mr. Eldridge also wrote at this time, in reply to instructions from the Foreign Office to report generally as to the manner in which Mr. Moore performed his duties, that he had come to the conclusion that that gentleman was a most efficient public servant, animated with much zeal, and doing his work with much tact and prudence.

To Mrs. Finn, April 17, 1866.

The result of Mr. Eldridge's reports, and of Mr. Moore's despatch of the 16th October, 1865, was that Mrs. Finn was told that Lord Clarendon, having caused the proceedings of Mr. Consul Moore in connection with her pecuniary affairs to be fully investigated, it had been found that Mr. Moore had not failed in his duty, and that the charges brought against him to that effect were groundless; she was also told that Lord Clarendon could not allow Her Majesty's Consul to be personally mixed up any further with the settlement of her private affairs, and that she must appoint an agent of her own, to whom Her Majesty's Consul would be instructed to give official assistance in case of necessity.

The matter seems to have rested thus till October last, when, Mr. Moore being in England, Mrs. Finn thought proper to renew the charges against him.

I would suggest that the decision come to in 1866 should be maintained. Mrs. Finn's matters are very complicated, and are made more so by what can only be called misrepresentations on her part, and could never be arranged except by an agent fully acquainted with the real facts of all the questions, to whom official assistance could be given when requisite. It is Mrs. Finn's own affair if she has allowed so many years to elapse without taking our advice in the matter.

I would also refer her to the letter to her of the 17th April, 1866, exculpating Consul Moore from blame in connection with her affairs.

V. B. *July* 10, 1879.

I concur.
J. P. *July* 12, 1879.

No. 25.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mrs. Finn.

Foreign Office, July 16, 1879.

Madam,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you, with reference to your letter of the 4th April, that his Lordship has received a Report from Her Majesty's

* Inclosure 4 in No. 22.

Consul at Jerusalem in regard to your case, and that he has examined the matter, together with the previous correspondence connected with it.

It appears that your complaints against Mr. Moore were fully inquired into in 1866, and that you were, in consequence, told, on the 17th April of that year, that Lord Clarendon was of opinion that the investigation which his Lordship had made into the proceedings of Mr. Moore in connection with your pecuniary affairs showed that that gentleman had not failed in his duty, and that the charges brought against him to that effect were groundless. You were at the same time informed that Mr. Moore could no longer be allowed to be personally mixed up any further with the settlement of your private affairs, but that he would be instructed to give official assistance in case of necessity to an agent appointed by you.

I am now to inform you that Lord Salisbury sees no reason to form a different opinion on the circumstances of your case. If you should now wish to appoint an agent, Mr. Moore will be instructed to give him all the assistance which he can properly afford, but Lord Salisbury cannot otherwise interfere in the matters connected with your land claims and pecuniary transactions in Syria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 26.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Consul Moore.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 10, 1879.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 15 of the 25th May, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Mrs. Finn in reply to her complaints respecting your proceedings in regard to her claims.

In the event of her appointing an agent to prosecute her claim, you will not fail to grant him all the assistance which you can properly afford him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 27.

Memorandum by Mrs. Finn.—(Communicated by Mr. A. Mills, M.P., July 19.)

1. MR. CONSUL MOORE has not performed his duties as trustee under a deed drawn up and executed, in 1863, by Sir E. Hornby, Foreign Office Commissioner. I have thereby suffered much loss in various ways, and my land, left me by my husband, which must now be worth above 8,000*l.*, is practically confiscated.

2. In 1865 the Grand Vizier of Turkey, his Excellency Fuad Pasha, gave orders for payment to me of about 1,300*l.*, and Lord Russell ordered Mr. Consul Moore to take the necessary steps on my behalf. But I have never received, nor have my agents received, any part thereof. Mr. Consul Moore has stated that he has not recovered it, for reasons given in a Report to the Foreign Office in 1866, of the contents of which I am ignorant.

3. In 1863 a Decree of Judge Hornby, dated the 26th June, awarded to me payment, by John Meshullam, of debts (about 300*l.*), a portion of which still remains unpaid, though I have applied for it. Interest (about 50*l.*) was also awarded to me by that Decree, but was not paid to me at the proper date, the 22nd April, 1866, though Consul Moore had it in his hands. This caused me the loss of an estate (then mortgaged for 500*l.*, but worth much more to me, which was to have been redeemed by me on that day), and also the loss of certain rights and privileges thereto belonging.

4. Mr. Consul Moore did not enforce the clause of that Decree of Judge Hornby, which forbade John Meshullam to mortgage or alienate from me another still more valuable estate, which was therefore lost to me, though I had duly applied to him.

* No. 25.

5. Various smaller debts and matters involving loss to me have been neglected by Mr. Consul Moore, though brought before him by myself and by my agents.

(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

The Elms, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.,
July 19, 1879.

No. 28.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 21.)

The Elms, Brook Green, W., July 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of a letter, dated the 16th July, from Sir J. Pauncefote, intimating that a Report had been received from Mr. Consul Moore, and that my complaints against him were inquired into in 1866, of which I was informed by Lord Clarendon on the 17th April, 1866.

Allow me to point out most respectfully to your Lordship that I am complaining of acts done by Mr. Consul Moore since the 17th April, 1866, and that an inquiry before that date could not possibly have dealt with them.

I was not even aware, on the 17th April, 1866, that Mr. Moore had not recovered the indemnity for me; and it was not until after that date that he refused to honour the draft presented by my agent for the money actually in his hands. I could not, therefore, have complained before that date.

Any inquiry previously held was unsought by me. I was never informed about it, and was not represented thereat.

I have repeatedly appointed agents to represent me, but Consul Moore has always refused to attend to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 29.

Mr. Lister to Mrs. Finn.

Foreign Office, July 26, 1879.

Madam,

IN reply to your letter of the 19th instant, relative to your complaints against Mr. Consul Moore, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that he has nothing to add to the letter which he caused to be addressed to you on the subject on the 16th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 30.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 7.)

The Elms, Brook Green, W., August 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I AM desirous of complying to the utmost of my power with your Lordship's wishes in sending another agent to Jerusalem to receive the money which his Excellency the Grand Vizier of Turkey, Fuad Pasha (at the instance of Her Majesty's Commissioner, Lord Dufferin), ordered to be paid immediately to Her Majesty's Consul for me in 1865, which the Pasha was then ready to pay, and which Earl Russell then directed Mr. Consul Moore to take the necessary steps to obtain.

A friend, who is well qualified for the purpose, has kindly offered me his services as my agent in this matter.

In order that I may be put to as little expense as possible, and to save my agent being detained a single hour in Jerusalem more than is necessary, I pray your Lordship will instruct Mr. Consul Moore to carry out, if he has not done so, the instructions of Earl Russell above referred to.

I shall be ready to send my agent out the moment that Mr. Consul Moore is ready to pay him the money.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELIZABETH ANNE FINN.

No. 31.

Mr. A. Mills, M.P., to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(*Received August* 25.)

Efford Down, Bude Haven, Cornwall, August 14, 1879.

My dear Sir,

WHEN I saw you at the Foreign Office respecting Mrs. Finn's affairs, I promised, with a view of simplifying your task of reporting to me on that matter, to specify the points on which I desired information.

They are as follows:—

1. The original Report of Sir Edward Hornby of 1863, or a copy of it in full.
2. The Reports of Mr. Consul Moore to the Foreign Office in 1865.
3. A Report made by Colonel Fraser to the Foreign Office in 1862.

I should also be glad of information on the following points:—

1. When Mr. Finn retired from the Consular service was any, and if so what, pension awarded to him?
2. What was the amount of Mr. Finn's debts (at the time of his death) incurred during his Consulate at Jerusalem, and would his lands there, if sold, suffice to pay those debts?
3. Mrs. Finn states that some Pasha at Jerusalem made a Decree in her husband's favour, awarding a certain payment to him by the Turkish Government. Is there in the Foreign Office any documentary evidence of such a Decree?

I may mention that Lord Salisbury, in writing to me the other day, promised that full information should be sent to me.

It is with a view of saving you unnecessary trouble that I thus specify the particular points on which information is desired.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR MILLS.

No. 32.

Memorandum by Sir J. Pauncefote.

I HAVE carefully examined these papers. There were three points in the case:—

1. Mr. Finn's Consular accounts and official pecuniary claims by and against him.
2. Mr. Finn's private debts.
3. Mr. Finn's claims on the Turkish Government for compensation.

Point No. 1.

This was disposed of by the grant to Mr. Finn of 200*l.* out of Secret Service, in addition to his retiring pension, and accepted by him in full satisfaction.

Point No. 2.

In 1863 Sir E. Hornby was sent to Jerusalem to hold an inquiry into certain complaints against Mr. Finn. He sent in a voluminous Report (see vol. Case of Mr. Finn, 1862-66), which, on the whole, showed that Mr. and Mrs. Finn, with all their weaknesses and faults, were most excellent people, and deserving of much sympathy. Indeed, this is attested by the support which to this day the widow receives from many influential quarters, and, after reading all the papers, I consider that she has a grievance against the Foreign Office.

Sir E. Hornby, on the occasion of his inquiry at Jerusalem, effected an arrangement between Mr. Finn and his creditors, which was recorded in a deed, dated the 1863, and "executed by Sir E. Hornby, Foreign Office Commissioner" (see Mr. Arthur Mills' memorandum). It appears from Mr. Oakes' Report (vol. Turkey, September to December 1874) that Mr. Moore, who had succeeded Mr. Finn in the Consulate, or (as Mrs. Finn suggests in her printed paper in the volume of Finn Papers) had supplanted him, through the influence of an exalted personage, refused to act any longer in the trusts of Sir E. Hornby's deed of arrangement. One of the creditors in England took proceedings against Mr. Finn. The creditor was

restrained by injunction, and the Court of Chancery directed interrogatories as to the trusts of the deed. We have no copy of the deed, but, judging from Mr. Moore's letter of the 2nd February, 1865, No. 7, Consular (vol. Finn Papers), and from the accounts transmitted therein, it would appear that the Consul was to receive all income derivable from Mr. Finn's property at Jerusalem, and also remittance of 200*l.* a-year, in quarterly payments of 50*l.*, from Mr. Finn's salary, and apply the whole in rateable dividends to the creditors, until the principal, amounting to 2,398*l.* 15*s.*, was paid off (see also Mr. Finn's letter of the 14th July, 1865).

It is stated in Mr. Oakes' memorandum (vol. 1874) that the claims of the creditors were reduced to the above sum "by judicial sentence," with a proviso that this sum should be paid off by instalments of 350*l.* a-year. I can find no trace of any such sentence, and, indeed, Sir E. Hornby himself, in his Report (vol. Finn Papers) calls it an "arrangement by consent," and adds that it would have been better if Mr. Finn had become bankrupt. This error appears to have originated in Mr. James Murray's Report of the case to Lord Clarendon in 1866 (see paper annexed), in which he states that Sir E. Hornby acted "judicially" in the matter. This was not so. Strange to say, after this arrangement, Sir E. Hornby himself, in a private note of the 7th February, 1865, deprecates the Foreign Office "mixing itself up between Mr. Finn and his creditors."

Mr. Moore was told to abstain from so doing, and, when Mr. Finn threatened legal proceedings against Mr. Moore, he was told that the Law Officers would be instructed to defend him. And, when he sent to his agent in the Foreign Office his 50*l.* instalment for remittance to Consul Moore under the trust deed, he was threatened with a stoppage of his extra allowance of 200*l.* a-year from Secret Service. Mr. Oakes observes in his memorandum (*quod vide* as to all this), "This answer at length silenced Mr. Finn, who wrote no more." This was in April 1869.

I think the deed of arrangement through the Consul was a grave mistake, but, having been entered into by the "Commissioner" of the Foreign Office, I do not understand how the Foreign Office could afterwards turn round and decline to see it carried out (see Mr. Finn's letter of the 14th July, 1865).

Mrs. Finn further states that Sir E. Hornby made a certain Decree in 1863, which Consul Moore neglected to enforce, and, further, that Consul Moore refused to perform the trusts of the deed of arrangement, in consequence of which *laches* on his part her husband's property at Jerusalem has been lost.

The Chancery proceedings above referred to lapsed (probably from want of funds); Mr. Finn died, and matters have remained at a deadlock ever since.

Mr. Eldridge, however, exonerates Mr. Moore. See his Report (vol. Finn Papers), précis taken from his despatches Nos. 6, 8, 9, 10, and 12 of January and February 1866. But I think we should have a copy of the deed and of Sir E. Hornby's instructions, and that fuller explanations should be called for.

Point No. 3.

This is also a weak point in the Foreign Office case.

The Finns had a claim against the Porte for compensation:—

1. For malicious destruction of their crops by turning a flood on the land.
2. For wrongful levy of taxes.

As to these claims, see letters from Lord Dufferin, and Sir E. Hornby stating his opinion as to amount of compensation properly due (vol. Finn Papers; Mr. Finn, 15th May, 1875).

Mr. Graham, one of the trustees under the deed of arrangement, proceeded to Constantinople in 1857, and laid all the evidence before the British Embassy and the Turkish authorities, who were satisfied that compensation was due.

Lord Dufferin pressed for payment in 1860, and Fuad Pasha promised prompt settlement, and sent an order to Jerusalem, of which see translation in Mrs. Finn's letter of the 15th May, 1865.

The principle of compensation is admitted, but an inquiry and assessment was to be made.

Not a cent has been obtained to this day. The compensation was estimated by Sir E. Hornby at 76,000 piastres.

It appears to me that Mrs. Finn has not received that support and assistance to which she was entitled in pressing and, if necessary, in proving her claim, and that we should call for any records of the evidence produced by Mr. Graham at the Embassy in Constantinople in 1857.

There has, unfortunately, been a bitter feud between Mr. Moore and the Finns, and a spirit of altercation between the latter and the Foreign Office. This has probably resulted in an "inactivity" on her behalf, which she probably considers malicious, and which is certainly not "masterly."

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

August 14, 1879

No. 33.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. A. Mills, M.P.

(Private.)

Foreign Office, August 21, 1879.

My dear Sir,

SINCE I had the pleasure of seeing you at the Foreign Office, I have carefully examined the papers relating to Mrs. Finn's complaint.

The late Consul Finn's case, for the sake of clearness, should be separated in three parts:—

1. His official Consular accounts with, and his alleged pecuniary claims on, the Foreign Office.
2. The arrangement made through the intervention of Sir E. Hornby in 1863 for the liquidation of his private debts.
3. His claims against the Porte for indemnity in respect of malicious damage to his property (by flooding his crops) and of illegal taxation.

The first of the above items of complaint was entirely disposed of by the grant to Mr. Finn of an annuity of 200*l.* (in addition to his pension), which he accepted in full satisfaction.

As regards the second head of inquiry, it appears that a deed of arrangement was entered into between Mr. Finn and his creditors through the instrumentality of Sir E. Hornby. Trustees were appointed (of whom the British Consul at Jerusalem was one), who were authorized to receive all sums payable there to Mr. Finn, and 200*l.* a-year out of his pension, the whole to be distributed among the creditors rateably until the whole amount of the debts (which had, by consent, been reduced to 2,398*l.* 15*s.*) should be paid off.

Consul Moore has furnished accounts showing that he has distributed in accordance with the deed every sum that he has received for that purpose.

In consequence of Mrs. Finn's complaints, Consul Eldridge was sent to Jerusalem to investigate the matter, and his Report entirely exonerates Mr. Moore of any irregularity whatever.

There is no trace of any judicial sentence by Sir E. Hornby in connection with Mr. Finn's affairs, and Mrs. Finn has been repeatedly told that her husband's representatives must take the necessary steps to prosecute any claim he may have had against private individuals, and that for that purpose they will receive all the assistance which the British Consul can give them.

As regards the third head of complaint, viz., the indemnity due by the Porte, it is true that, owing to the exertions of the British Embassy at Constantinople in 1857, Fuad Pasha issued an order to the authorities at Jerusalem to inquire into the complaint and to assess the damage and compensation as usual in such cases. But to this day no evidence has been produced on the part of the claimants which could enable the British Consul to assist in obtaining compensation, and, of course, the Turkish officials at Jerusalem professed their readiness to go into the matter if we would only adduce the necessary particulars and evidence, which, unfortunately, have never been forthcoming. So far as I can judge from the papers, which I have studied with every desire to assist Mrs. Finn in the prosecution of her just rights, I can find no indication of any effort on her part or that of her late husband to take any step on their own behalf. They seem to have thought it the duty of the British Consul to collect Mr. Finn's assets, to sue persons alleged to have injured his property, and to recover indemnity from the Jerusalem officials without any action whatever on their part, and without being furnished with the materials for establishing their claims.

No one can read the history of her sad experiences in Jerusalem without feeling great sympathy for Mrs. Finn, and she will no doubt find many warm supporters in her appeals to the Foreign Office, so long as she persists in the erroneous belief that there are judgments in her favour in our Consular Court which remain unexecuted owing to the apathy of our Consul, and that the Foreign Office refuse to take steps to obtain

payment of an indemnity ascertained and admitted by the Porte. As regards the specific points mentioned in your letter, I can only answer them as follows:—

1. The original Report of Sir E. Hornby in 1863 can be inspected by you at any time at this Office, but it is against the rules to furnish copies. It is a voluminous document, and deals only with the causes of the ill-feeling existing between Mr. Finn and certain sections of the community at Jerusalem, and with the arrangement which Sir E. Hornby brought about with the creditors.

2 and 3. The Reports of Consul Moore in 1865 and of Colonel Fraser in 1862 can also be inspected by you, as well as any other documents relating to the subject in the possession of the Foreign Office.

As regards the further points of inquiry at the close of your letter, the following are the only replies we can give:—

1. Mr. Finn, on his retirement, was allotted a pension of 221*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and in addition thereto an extra annuity of 200*l.* in satisfaction of his alleged claims in account with the Foreign Office.

2. According to Sir E. Hornby's Report, Mr. Finn's private debts amounted to 4,823*l.*, and were reduced by consent to the sum of 2,398*l.* 15*s.* named in the deed of arrangement.

We have no knowledge of the extent of the lands Mr. Finn possessed, or of their value.

3. There is no trace in our records of any Decree made by any Pasha at Jerusalem in Mrs. Finn's favour, nor have we found any allusion to any such Decree in any of the papers which are comprised in four bound volumes.

I shall be most happy to reply to any further questions you may desire to ask, and to afford you all the assistance I can in case you should desire to satisfy yourself by a personal inspection of the papers whether Mrs. Finn has really any reasonable ground of complaint against Consul Moore or the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 34.

Mr. Lister to Consul Moore.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 15 of the 24th May relative to Mrs. Finn's claims, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to instruct you to forward to this Office, if in your possession, the deed executed by Sir E. Hornby in 1863 for the arrangement of the debts of the late Mr. Finn, under which it is asserted that Her Majesty's Consul was appointed trustee for their settlement, together with a statement showing how much money has been received by you under that deed, and how it has been expended, and whether any balance now remains in your hands. A copy of any instructions given by Sir E. Hornby with regard to the execution of the said deed should also be sent home.

I am also to instruct you to report whether there is any evidence in your possession of the value of the lands which belonged to Mrs. Finn at Urtas and Bakoosh, and if so, what that value was.

Mrs. Finn states that Sir E. Hornby in a Decree dated the 26th June, 1863, awarded to her the payment by Mr. John Meshullam of certain debts and interest due to her. If this Decree, or any document of a similar nature, is in your possession, it should also be sent home.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 35.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 89. Consular.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 62, Consular, of the 20th June, relative to Mrs. Finn's claims, I have to state to you that that lady alleges that in 1857 the Porte admitted her right to compensation for damage done to her property

at Urtas, and for the wrongful levying of taxes thereon, upon the strength of evidence submitted to it by her agent, Mr. Graham, through Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I should be glad if your Excellency would cause search to be made in the archives of the Embassy, and forward to me in original any papers which may be forthcoming in support of Mrs. Finn's assertions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 36.

Mr. A. Mills, M.P., to Sir J. Paunceforte.—(Received September 13.)

My dear Sir, *Efford Down, Bude Haven, Cornwall, September 10, 1879.*

I AM much obliged to you for your full and clear letter on Mrs. Finn's case. I will not trouble you further in the matter now, but when I return to London I will call at the Foreign Office for the purpose of looking at some of the documents to which your letter refers.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR MILLS.

No. 37.

Consul Moore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 22. Consular.)
My Lord, *Jerusalem, October 8, 1879.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, conveyed to me in Mr. Lister's despatch No. 5 of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith:—

The deed of arrangement executed between the late Mr. Finn and his creditors, sanctioned by Sir Edmund Hornby (in original).

A statement of all moneys received by me under that deed, and how they have been expended, showing a balance in my hands of 9*s.* 7*d.* for an unclaimed dividend.

A copy of the instructions (or more properly explanations) given to me by Sir Edmund Hornby with regard to the execution of the said deed; and

The Decree of Sir E. Hornby in the suit of Mrs. Finn against Mr. John Meshullam (in original).

Mr. Meshullam died in 1877.

I beg leave to report that there is no evidence in my possession of the value of the lands which belonged to Mrs. Finn at Urtas and Bakoosh other than, in respect of the latter, the statement of Sir E. Hornby, which is already before your Lordship.

As will be perceived from a perusal of the deed of arrangement and account, I punctually carried out the duties intrusted to me by Sir E. Hornby. All bills and securities held by the creditors were taken and deposited at the Consulate on payment of first dividend to each.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Heads of Arrangement proposed by Mr. Finn, late Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, with the undermentioned Creditors, sanctioned by the Judge of Her Britannic Majesty's Supreme Consular Court.

MR. FINN pledges all his rights and interest in the Talbiyeh and Sidâreh properties; also on certain vineyards in the neighbourhood of Urtas for the payment of his just debts. And he also agrees to set aside 200*l.* a-year of his official salary for the like object.

In order to carry out this arrangement, Mr. Finn assigns over to Her Majesty's Consul and to Mr. Melville Polin Bergheim all the lands of which he is possessed, or to which he is entitled, and he also authorizes his agent, Mr. John Brodrip Bergne, of the

Foreign Office, to pay over to the same gentlemen the sum of 50*l.* quarterly out of the salary payable to him as Her Majesty's Consul at the Dardanelles.

Mr. Finn also authorizes and empowers Mr. Bergheim, in concert with Mr. Moossa Tannoos, to sell half the lands mortgaged by Mr. Tannoos to answer the debt due to the Rev. J. H. Roberts, Mr. Bergheim releasing the other half of the said lands to Mr. Tannoos. The Talibiyeh and Sidâreh properties remaining pledged for the amount that may still be unpaid. These properties to remain under care and superintendence of Mr. Bergheim.

Mr. Finn leaves the time and mode of sale of all the above properties to the control of Mr. Bergheim, subject only to the sanction of Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Bergheim to exercise his discretion for the benefit of the creditors.

Sir Edmund Hornby, having ascertained the principal sums due to the creditors of Mr. Finn, such amounts, when received by the creditors, will operate as a full discharge.

No creditor will be entitled to any portion of such amount until he shall have deposited in the Consulate of Her Britannic Majesty all his bills and securities, and any creditor refusing, his share will not be paid to him, but kept in deposit until such time as he shall give up the securities held by him.

	£	s.	d.
The Rev. Mr. Roberts	1,100	0	0
Moossa Minchas	213	0	0
Bergmann	106	0	0
Hirsch	77	11	0
Tubul	9	0	0
Aaron Bär	223	0	0
" (Hilpern)	13	0	0
Claims against Minchas, which Minchas was told to pay them, but did not pay—			
Zebulun	5	14	0
Levy	Nil		
Hilpern	93	0	0
"	167	0	0
Finzi	170	0	0
Odeh Azam	95	0	0
Kraus (Hilpern)	128	0	0
Max Ungar	8	10	0
Hohman	20	0	0
Total	2,348	15	0

Note.—It is understood that Mr. Bergheim will first endeavour to sell the Talibiyeh and Sidâreh properties before proceeding to the sale of the property of Mr. Tannoos.

It is also understood, that should any gift or grant be derived from the Urtas or Industrial Plantation Society in favour of Mrs. Finn, that such grant shall be paid over to Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, and in the first instance be divisible between Mr. Hilpern and Mr. Tannoos in the following way—that is to say, Mr. Hilpern is to receive such a proportion of half as will repay him the sum of 260*l.*, and Mr. Tannoos such a proportion of the other half as will repay him the sum in respect of which his land shall have been sold, or if not sold, then the sum so set apart in respect of Mr. Tannoos' land shall be paid by Her Majesty's Consul to Mr. Bergheim on account of Mr. Roberts' debt, and in respect of such payment Mr. Roberts shall release the lands of Mr. Tannoos.

Mr. Hilpern is to give up all the securities he now holds, and Mr. Roberts is to abandon all claim by way of pledge on the land of Mr. Tannoos.

Done in Jerusalem, this 26th day of June, 1863.

(Signed) JAMES FINN.

Approved and settled by me this 6th day of July, 1863.

(Signed) EDMUND HORNBY, *Judge.*

Consented to by majority in number and value of creditors.

E. H.

Signed by us in token of our consent to the within terms by which we agreed to be bound

(Signed) M. TANNOOS.
MELVILLE P. BERGHEIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Mr. Consul Finn in Account with Her Majesty's Consulate at Jerusalem.

Dr.				Cr.			
1863	First dividend—	£	s. d.	1863 November	By amount received from Mr. Finn ..	£	s. d. 50 0 0
	To amount paid—						
Nov. 16	Aron Bar	9	7 1				
" 16	C. Holman	0	16 9½				
" 18	Odeh Azam	2	14 7				
Dec. 11	Judah Bergman	4	8 11				
1864				1864			
Jan. 14	Max Ungar	0	7 2	March	Ditto		50 0 0
	Second dividend—						
	To amount paid—						
Mar. 21	Odeh Azam	2	14 7				
" 21	C. Holman	0	16 9½				
" 29	J. Bergman	4	8 11				
" 29	Aron Bar	9	7 1				
Apr. 8	Max Ungar	0	7 2				
	First and second dividend—						
	To amount paid—						
" 12	J. Valero and Co., for A. Finzi ..	14	4 10				
July 21	M. Minchas	17	6 8				
Sept. 5	Tubul	0	15 2				
1867							
Mar. 27	F. M. Hilpern	25	4 8				
" 27	F. M. Hilpern, for J. Marcus ..	5	10 0				
	Balance (Zebulon's first and second dividend unclaimed)	0	9 7				
		100	0 0			100	0 0

Copy of this account sent to Mr. Finn in letter of 15th November, 1867.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Sir E. Hornby's Instructions relating to Mr. Finn's Affairs.

THE arrangement approved by me is set out *in extenso* in the deed of the 26th June, signed by Finn.

None of the claims therein mentioned will bear interest.

Mr. Roberts' debt of 1,100*l.* is the subject of a special provision; he will not get any of the 200*l.* a-year set apart for the creditors.

Hilpern is himself responsible to A. Bar for debt (No.) for the sum of 13*l.*; also for debt due to Kraws (No.) for 128*l.*; when Hilpern has paid these two debts he will stand as creditor towards Mr. Finn, and will be entitled to his share of the 200*l.* a-year set apart in respect of these two debts of 13*l.* and 128*l.*; and of two other debts owing to him, 93*l.* and 167*l.*; total 391*l.* [*sic*].

Inasmuch, however, as Hilpern will have to pay the two first items, viz., 13*l.* and 128*l.*, for Mr. Finn, it is but fair that he should be repaid by Finn out of the first moneys coming in from the Urtas' debt of 38,000 piastres. Mr. Bergheim is going to buy a garden for Sir Thomas Tobin for 100*l.*, so this 100*l.* may be given to Hilpern on account of the two debts of 13*l.* and 128*l.*: this will reduce his credit against the estate of Finn to the balance due on these two sums, viz., 41*l.*, 93*l.*, and 167*l.*; total 301*l.*; and in respect of this sum he will rank as creditor of Mr. Finn and have his dividend.

If, however, the Urtas Society should make any grant of money to Mrs. Finn, then that grant is to be divided between Hilpern and Tannoos in the proportion which their several debts bear to it.

The object in view and the reason is this: Tannoos gave up half his land on mortgage to secure Mr. Roberts' debt; it is but fair that he should be repaid if his land is sold. Hilpern is forced to pay some of Finn's debts; it is but fair that he should be repaid when the grant is made. Write to me, informing me if Mr. Tannoos' land is sold, and for what sum, and what sums Hilpern has paid on Finn's account, and what he has received as dividend, and I [*sic*].

If Hilpern is annoyed by A. Bar or any other creditor he will be entitled to your assistance. Most likely they will endeavour to ignore my decision, and try to find out if any stranger owes Hilpern money, and then, through the authority of that stranger,

they will endeavour to sequester the money so due to Hilpern in the debtor's hands; this must be resisted. I should advise you seeing the authority of the debtor, explaining to him the decisions to which I have come, and induce him to disregard the signature; if he refuses write to me particulars.

All securities in the shape of bills, &c., must be delivered up to you in deposit, against your receipt, by each creditor at the time he is paid his first dividend.

Before Hilpern is paid the last sum of 93*l.* he must deliver up any jewellery he holds of Mrs. Finn to you.

If any bills in the hands of creditors get into the hands of strangers, you will inform them that they are useless, as the reduced amounts will only be paid to the present holders; take copies of all bills so presented and forward them to me.

I have fixed A. Bar's account, in respect of which he holds three protested bills of 100*l.* each, at 223*l.*; for this sum he will rank as the other creditors and receive his dividend, giving up, of course, the three bills.

Should there be any balance over 1,100*l.* after the sale of the Talibiyeh, Sidâreh, and the half of the Tannoos' lands, such balance must be paid into the dividend fund for division amongst the other creditors, for Mr. Roberts will have been paid his principal sum of 1,100*l.*, and he is not entitled to any interest any more than any other creditor.

Hirsch ranks as a creditor of Finn for 77*l.* 10*s.*; he has no legal claim against Hilpern.

Minchas' (the Dragoman) claim I have altogether disallowed; it is fraudulent, and he owes Finn money, instead of Finn owing him, notably amongst others a sum of 18*l.* given him by Mrs. Finn to pay A. Bar, which he put in his own pocket. He did the same with Zebulon's bill and with Levi's bill. He must be made to pay the 2,000 piastres due to the Cavass, who has a judgment of the Medjliss in his favour; no excuse of bankruptcy must be allowed to avail him unless he goes to prison for ninety days and gives up all his property, which must be sold.

Hadji Cavass: the arrangement with the Cavass will stand good.

Zebulon's claim against Hilpern I have dismissed in consequence of his gross misconduct before me at the trial of his case, when he made a joke of his oath and failed or omitted to make any case out against Hilpern. He may rank as a creditor of Finn, but for the sum only of 5*l.* 14*s.*, at which I have assumed the real amount of principal money due on his claim.

Minchas: should this individual make any claim through the Pasha, you will say that after having carefully examined his claim I found that he owes Mrs. Finn money in respect of sums given him to give to others, which he improperly retained, notably to A. Bar 18*l.*, and Zebulon and Levi; this man must be made to pay Hadji Cavass.

(Signed) E. HORNBY, *Judge.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 37.

SUPREME CONSULAR COURT, SITTING AT JERUSALEM.

Decree in the case of Mrs. Finn, representing the Industrial Plantation Society, v. John Meshullam.

I DECREE that the house and seven gardens at Urtas, lately belonging to Mr. John Meshullam, and sold by Decree of this Court of the 15th December, 1862, remain in mortgage to answer for the sum of 32,000 piastres, and for the further sum of 6,010 piastres, at which amount I assess certain sums due and owing to Mrs. Finn in respect of taxes, rent of vineyard and gardens, interest due, and money paid, &c.

And I further decree, on the condition of John Meshullam complying with the orders and arrangements hereunder made and stated, that the said house and gardens shall be returned to the possession of the said John Meshullam for his sole use and benefit.

1. I order that the said two sums of 32,000 piastres and 6,010 piastres respectively remain in mortgage for the term of three years on the said lands, bearing interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, payable to Her Majesty's Consul half-yearly.

2. I order that if the said several sums, and the interest thereon, be repaid by the said John Meshullam during his lifetime, then shall the sale of the 15th December last be annulled.

3. I order that if the said sums and interest are not repaid by John Meshullam during his lifetime, or the orders and conditions of this Decree are not complied with by the heirs of the said John Meshullam, then I order that the sale of the 15th December be confirmed; but if part of the mortgage money shall have been satisfied, then such part only of such lands shall be sold as shall be sufficient to repay any sum still unpaid.

4. I order that John Meshullam give a good title to the vacouf lands and to the vineyards, &c., and that if he decline, neglect, or is unable, or is instrumental, directly or indirectly, in causing any difficulty with reference to the secure possession of the same, that he give an equivalent in mulk land for the vacouf, and that he pay the principal sums expended by Mrs. Finn on the vineyards, namely, 60,000 piastres.

5. I further order that the said John Meshullam shall not in any way sell or charge the said house and gardens at Urtas without first offering the same to Mrs. Finn, acting on behalf of the Industrial Plantation Society, for the same amount as any purchaser is willing to give, or any mortgager is willing to lend, for or on the said house and gardens.

Further, I order that it shall be optional on the said John Meshullam to rent the lands at Urtas, now belonging to the above Society, at the rent of 100*l.* per annum. If the said John Meshullam refuses, then he shall lend the agent of the Society all the assistance in his power in the management and protection of the lands he so refuses to rent.

I further order that, on any breach of these orders, or on any proof satisfactory to Her Majesty's Consul, of the said John Meshullam doing, or insisting, or causing to be done, or omitting to prevent any injury to the said Urtas property, whether vacouf land, or vineyard, or other land, then that the said John Meshullam shall be evicted from the said land, and the sale of the 15th December last be fully confirmed, and that John Meshullam, or any one acting for him, be dealt with according to law, as and for a contempt of this Order or Decree.

Signed this 26th day of June, 1863, at Jerusalem.

(Signed) EDMUND HORNBY, *Judge.*

No. 38.

Sir J. Paunceforte to Consul Moore.

(No. 6.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 22 of the 8th ultimo, inclosing documents relating to the case of Mrs. Finn, I am now directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to instruct you to send home a copy of the Decree of the 15th December, 1862, referred to in the Decree in the case of Mrs. Finn (on behalf of the Industrial Planting Society) *v.* John Meshullam, and to give a detailed account, so far as you are able, of the legal proceedings which led to both Decrees, reporting at the same time what steps, if any, were taken under either of them.

You will also inform his Lordship whether the deed of arrangement was registered in the Consulate pursuant to the Bankruptcy Act of 1862 under which it purports to have been made, and if so, what was the date of the registration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 39.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 116. Consular.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 89, Consular, of the 5th September last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have caused a diligent search to be made in the archives of this Embassy for any papers in support of Mrs. Finn's claims for damage done to her property at Urtas.

No trace can be found of Mrs. Finn's name, or of that of her agent, Mr. Graham, in the archives for the years 1857-58, but on the 14th March, 1857, Mr. Consul Finn addressed a despatch to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, putting forward a claim against the Turkish Government on behalf of a British subject, a Mr. John Meshullam, for damages caused to his property in the Valley of Urtas by inundations; the inundations being occasioned, it was alleged, by the neglect of the Turkish authorities to keep certain cisterns at the head of the valley and the channels leading from them in proper repair.

A petition from Mr. Meshullam was presented to the Porte, and the then Minister for Foreign Affairs is said to have promised to recommend the claim privately to the Governor of Jerusalem. Owing to the death of Reschid Pasha this recommendation appears never to have been sent, and on the 28th March, 1858, Mr. Finn again wrote on the subject. On the 3rd June following Mr. Finn was informed by Mr. Alison that the Ministers of the Porte refused to acknowledge Mr. Meshullam's right to any compensation, or to any exemption from taxes.

It would, therefore, appear that there are no papers in the archives of this Embassy which would support Mrs. Finn's assertion, that in 1857 the Porte admitted her right to compensation for damage done to her property at Urtas, and for the wrongful levying of taxes thereon; in fact, supposing that lady's claim and that of Mr. Meshullam to be one and the same, the reverse would appear to be the case.

The papers bearing on the case are Mr. Finn's despatches of the 14th March and 24th November, 1857, and the 28th March, 1858, Mr. Alison's despatches to Mr. Finn of the 24th December, 1857, and the 3rd June, 1858, and a memorandum by Mr. Dragoman Sareli, undated. These documents are all bound up in the archives; but they can be cut out, or copies of them sent, if your Lordship should consider it necessary.

I must apologize for the time that has passed before replying to your Lordship's despatch, but the search has taken more time than could well be devoted to it while the Embassy was at Therapia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 40.

Consul Moore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 24. Consular.)

My Lord, *Jerusalem, December 17, 1879.*

WITH reference to Sir J. Pauncefote's despatch No. 6 of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to state that in the record of the suit of Mrs. Finn *v.* John Meshullam in this Consular Court there is no Decree dated the 15th December, 1862, but one dated the 9th December, 1862, of which a copy is inclosed; there is also a "Warrant of Distress upon Conviction," dated the 15th December, 1862, which is based on the above-mentioned Decree, of which I likewise forward a copy.

The legal proceedings which led to this Decree were the following, as appears from the record of the suit and the archives of the Consulate:—

In July 1862, certain differences between Mrs. Finn and Mr. John Meshullam in connection with the Urtas property were, by mutual consent, referred to arbitration, the parties engaging "to abide by the decision of the Arbitrators when it is given."

The Arbitrators duly made their award, according to which Mr. Meshullam was adjudged to pay to Mrs. Finn the sum of 32,208 piastres. This award Mr. Meshullam failed to comply with, though required to do so by Mr. Consul Finn. A delay of thirty days was granted to him, and Mrs. Finn drew upon him two bills for the amount of the award, payable at the expiration thereof. At maturity Mr. Meshullam dishonoured the bills. Thereupon, on the 11th November, Mr. Finn, at the instance of Mrs. Finn, sequestrated the property, and on the 9th December decreed its sale by public auction (Inclosure No. 1).

Mr. Meshullam protested against the whole proceedings, and gave notice of appeal against the Decree of the 9th December. Mr. Finn refused leave to appeal, on the ground that an arbitration award was unappealable. Subsequently Mrs. Finn, with the sanction of Mr. Finn, offered Mr. Meshullam to have a new trial at the Supreme Consular Court at Constantinople, "on condition of his providing the security of two

persons who should give good saleable bills upon themselves for the amount of at least 2,000*l.*, and a further bond on his property at Urtas, should the above sum be insufficient to pay Mrs. Finn's claims and damages and expenses."

Mr. Meshullam not having been able to comply with these conditions, the sale took place on the 15th December. The property fetched 42,800 piastres, the purchaser being Mr. Peter Meshullam, son of Mr. John Meshullam, but "Mrs. Finn obtained leave to repurchase it from him at the advanced price of 45,000 piastres, to which Mr. P. Meshullam consented, the difference being in Mr. Meshullam's favour."

On the arrival of Sir Edmund Hornby, in June 1863, to investigate the affairs of Mr. Finn, Mr. Meshullam appealed to him against the Decree of the 9th December. The Judge entertained the appeal and heard the cause. There is no record in the Consulate of the proceedings, but the result was the Judge's Decree of the 26th June, 1863.

In terms of this Decree, in April 1864 Mr. Meshullam retook possession of his property, he having punctually paid into the Consulate the sum, principal and interest, awarded to Mrs. Finn by the Decree, which I accounted for to that lady.

I beg to inform your Lordship that I cannot find that the deed of arrangement was registered in the Consulate, either in the book kept for such registrations or elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extract from Consular Court Register.

December 9.

THE Court issued an Order for sale of the above property in Urtas as follows:—

"*Order.*

"*British Consulate, Jerusalem, December* 9, 1862.

"Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Jerusalem and Palestine hereby gives order for the sale of property of Mr. John Meshullam of Urtas, on Monday next, the 15th instant, at this Consulate, namely, a house of six rooms and two archways and seven gardens now in cultivation, with right of water, &c., for liquidation of protested bills drawn for the amount of 32,208 piastres according to an award of arbitration dated the 30th September, 1862, and other claims which have appeared on enforcing, by the Consulate, the aforesaid sentence of the Arbitrators for production of all amounts.

(Signed) "JAMES FINN, *Consul.*"

December 15.

In *re* sentence of arbitration of the 30th September, 1862, between Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Finn and Mr. John Meshullam.

Warrant of Distress upon Conviction.

In Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court in Jerusalem, on Monday, the 15th day of December, 1862.

To Mr. Raphael Abraham Minchas and Mr. Jacob Baniot, Dragomans of this Consulate, and Hassan, a Kawass of this Court.

John Meshullam of Urtas stands convicted before this Court, by a conviction dated the 9th day of December, 1862, for that he refused to deliver secure possession to Mrs. Finn, by bonds, of certain lands, or to repay Mrs. Finn the amount of expenses on those lands, or to give her a guarantee for the same.

And it is in and by the said conviction adjudged that the seven gardens and house of the said John Meshullam should be sold for his said offence, and for the payment of the said Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Finn of the sums expended by her upon those lands, and of the 32,208 piastres awarded by the arbitration on the 30th September, 1862, and of the 651 piastres which have appeared upon settlement of various accounts and for the cost of office fees.

And the said John Meshullam, although required to pay the same, has not paid the same.

Therefore, you are hereby commanded, in Her Majesty's name, that you, at the hour of 11 o'clock A.M. of this day, do sell the said property by public auction in this Consulate for the sums of 32,208 piastres, and 100,870 piastres, and 651 piastres, and 21*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* sterling (for costs), and that you pay the money arising therefrom into this Court, in order that it may be applied according to law.

And that the overplus, if any, may be rendered on demand to the said John Meshullam.

(Signed) JAMES FINN, *Consul.*

No. 41.

Memorandum by Sir J. Pauncefote.

THE last reports of Consul Moore show that there have been judicial proceedings and decisions given in Mrs. Finn's case of which there was no trace before in our records here. I think the portion of the correspondence which I have had blocked off for the purpose might be communicated privately by me to Mr. Arthur Mills, and I might suggest to him that Mrs. Finn and her friends could not do better than consult Sir Edmund Hornby, who is now practising at the Bar in London, and who is probably the only man who can understand his judgments in this case.*

J. P.

Foreign Office, February 27, 1880.

No. 42.

Memorandum left by Mr. Adams at the Foreign Office, April 10, 1880.

MRS. FINN states that Mr. Consul Moore has been guilty of neglect of duty towards her in five particulars:—

1. He has refused to apply to the Pasha of Jerusalem for the payment of a sum of money admitted by the Turkish Government to be due to her, and for the payment of which the Grand Vizier had issued stringent orders to the Pasha.

2. While having, by his own admission, money of hers in his hands, he dishonoured her draft in favour of Mr. Hilpern, thereby causing Mr. Hilpern to foreclose her property.

3. He enforced the payment of bills against her estate, which, under the deed of settlement, ought to have been cancelled.

4. He paid away her property without taking in the securities, as he was bound to do by the deed.

5. He refuses to attend to her interests, although constituted her trustee by the deed of settlement decreed by Sir E. Hornby; and will not take any steps for the discharge of her debts and the release of her property.

No. 43.

Translation by Mr. Redhouse of Vizirial Order inclosed in Consul-General Eldridge's No. 9 *of January* 29, 1866.—(*Received April* 13, 1880.)

IT having been set forth that the wife of the former British Consul at Jerusalem has not yet received the indemnity money promised on account of damage done in the year 1857 A.D. to the house she possessed at Awrtas; and that, although the valley of Awrtas is exempt from taxation ("virgu"), the taxes of the said house are levied and raised from the aforesaid (lady); and the request (or claim) set forth that the said indemnity money be paid to her, and she be made to participate in the said exemption from taxation, the present note of your obedient servant has been written that you may be so good as to investigate the origin and basis of this matter, and arrange (or settle) the requirements of the case, reporting the same here.

(Sealed) MUHAMMED FU'AD.

[illegible] (*20th October*, 1864.)

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* Nos. 39 to 40, both inclusive, were blocked off and communicated privately to Mr. A. Mills by Sir J. Pauncefote.

No. 44.

Mr. W. Adams to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received April 14.)

Sir, 13, *Overstone Road, Hammersmith, W., April* 12, 1880.

ALTHOUGH I have not had the honour of a personal introduction to yourself, yet as I am the witness whose testimony established the murder of Mr. P. Meshullam, Mr. Finn's late Secretary at Jerusalem; as it was on account of my representations, made through Lord Dufferin, that Lord Russell sent Sir Edmund Hornby to investigate Mr. Finn's affairs; and as I am the person whom Mrs. Finn has requested to act as her agent in accordance with the suggestion made by Lord Salisbury in the summer of last year, I venture to lay before you an aspect of the case which from various causes may possibly have escaped your notice, but to which I think you will consider it desirable that your attention should be immediately and clearly directed. And even if some of the facts which I shall have to mention may be already well known to you, yet I would beg you to give them your earnest attention in the aspect which they may assume when viewed by the light of other circumstances with which perhaps you may not be so familiar.

You are doubtless aware that, in order to trace the present condition of Mrs. Finn's affairs to its source, it is necessary to recur to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Jerusalem in 1862, at which time Mr. Finn was Consul there, and Mr. P. Meshullam was his Cancellier, while Mr. Moore, then Vice-Consul at Beyrout, acted as Dragoman to His Royal Highness. During the visit Mr. Moore, in concert with Dr. Rosen, the Prussian Consul (and the others to whom Sir E. Hornby attributes the slanders about Mr. Finn), arranged for His Royal Highness to meet certain Arabs for the purpose of presenting their petitions without the knowledge of Mr. Finn. These petitions, as you will see upon inspecting them, were directed both against Mr. Consul Finn and his Cancellier, Mr. P. Meshullam, and His Royal Highness having presented them at the Foreign Office upon his arrival in England, Lord Russell gave instructions to Colonel Fraser to inquire into the charges therein contained. The investigation was accordingly made in the autumn of 1862, and was followed by the dismissal of Mr. P. Meshullam from the Consular Service and the removal of Mr. Finn to an inferior Consulate, while the embarrassments of the latter were enormously aggravated—as Sir E. Hornby expressly shows—through the action which His Royal Highness set in motion. But before I dismiss this part of the case, there is one very peculiar point to which I desire to call your special attention. The despatch sent by Lord Russell to Colonel Fraser, and intended, as is shown by its contents, for the inspection of Mr. Finn, only contains instructions to inquire into the charges brought against Mr. P. Meshullam: and Colonel Fraser sedulously denied to Mr. Finn that his own conduct formed any part of the inquiry. But in the margin of the original instructions given by Lord Russell appears a note directing that all the matters contained in the petitions (that is to say, the conduct of the Consul as well as the Cancellier) should form the subject of the inquiry; and when subsequently the late Lord Lytton, at my request, asked to see the papers connected with these investigations, Sir Austen Layard, then Under-Secretary, refused permission on the ground that they would disclose the reasons for removing Mr. Finn from his Consulate at Jerusalem. Thus it would appear that not only did His Royal Highness condescend to accept, clandestinely, petitions against an official whose guest he was supposed to be, but that the inquiry instituted at his instigation, and which resulted in utter ruin to Mr. Finn, was in reality a secret inquiry, in which the most elaborate precautions would seem to have been taken at head-quarters that the accused should not even be permitted to know that he was the subject of the accusation.

These facts alone would, I think, be sufficient to give rise to a scandal of no inconsiderable dimensions, but the subsequent proceedings are of a character still more extraordinary.

On the 4th March, 1863, Mr. Moore, formerly the Dragoman to His Royal Highness, came to Jerusalem as Consul in the place of Mr. Finn, whom, as I have said, he had succeeded, through His Royal Highness' assistance, in ousting from his appointment. Two days after his arrival, Mr. P. Meshullam, whom he had also succeeded in ejecting, was murdered under circumstances which left no doubt as to the parties who were guilty of the crime, but from that day to this his murderers have been suffered to go unpunished. This murder I, as I have stated, was the means of establishing to the conviction of the Turkish authorities, and in connection with it I can of my own knowledge speak of three distinct peculiarities in the conduct of

Mr. Moore. He omitted to view the body of the murdered man at Urtâs, although I suggested to him to do so;* he was absent when the Turkish authorities went, accompanied by myself, to view the place of the murder, a point of the utmost importance in establishing the fact, and he refused point blank to pursue a certain line of inquiry which seemed likely to inculpate Peter's brother Elijah, saying to me in so many words that he was not going to take evidence against Elijah Meshullam.

Then followed the mission of Sir E. Hornby consequent upon my representations to Lord Russell made through the medium of Lord Dufferin, with the results of which you are probably well acquainted. Sir Edmund declared in the plainest terms that the evidence with regard to the murder was complete and undeniable, and gave the most positive instructions to Mr. Moore to prosecute certain Arabs on account of it. He cleared Mr. Finn from the imputations which had been cast upon him; he directly traced the embarrassments of that unfortunate man to the interference of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and he settled a deed of composition with Mr. Finn's creditors by which the whole of his land became vested in Mr. Consul Moore for the purpose of gradually redeeming and extinguishing the debt.

And what effect has been given to the decision of this high official, acting under the immediate authority of the Foreign Office? The murderers have been permitted to enjoy such an impunity that Sir Edmund made in person a representation at the Foreign Office in terms of the strongest indignation. The unfortunate object of all this malevolence received no intimation that his character had been cleared, but died some years ago worn out with the troubles which had been brought upon him, while his widow, beggared through the action of His Royal Highness, as Sir Edmund points out, and through the neglect of Mr. Moore, vainly endeavours to obtain from the latter the simplest measure of justice. Meanwhile the Prince's friend, who after his successful intrigue with Mr. Finn's slanderers, now holds possession alike of the office and the property of the man he has ousted, allows the murderers of Meshullam to remain unpunished in the teeth of the plainest evidence, and installs as his own Chancellier the very man in whose favour he refused to pursue the evidence with regard to the murder, while he is himself permitted to set at utter defiance the orders of his superiors and the duties of his position; to neglect application for money which Her Majesty's Commissioner has long ago declared that the Turkish Government were ready to pay;† to dishonour the order drawn by Mrs. Finn, and permit her property to be foreclosed while in possession, according to his own showing, of money which belonged to her; to enforce the payment of bills which the deed of composition required to be cancelled; to pay away her money without redeeming her pledges; and, in a word, to break every point of the deed of which he is the guardian and trustee. Add to this that when Mr. Finn took advantage on one occasion, and Mrs. Finn on another, of Mr. Moore's presence in England to take steps for obtaining from him a due account of the property with which he had been entrusted, no notice was taken by the authorities at the Foreign Office, except that Mr. Finn was threatened with loss of salary unless he desisted from his purpose, and that Mr. Moore was sent back to Jerusalem with all possible speed.

Such, Sir, is the net result of His Royal Highness' most unusual and certainly most unfortunate interference in the affairs of Mr. Finn and Mr. Meshullam—a result which would doubtless shock His Royal Highness himself in no slight degree should it ever come to the public ear. That this is a contingency by no means improbable, you, perhaps, may not be aware. Some of Mrs. Finn's friends—and I feel bound to add that I cannot disagree with the view which they take—are advising her to desist from her fruitless attempts at obtaining the assistance of the Government to clear her husband's name and regain the possession of her property, and are urging her rather to enforce her rights through the action of a Court of Law. Should this be the course she decides upon pursuing—and it is one that will remain open, not to herself alone, but to her executors upon her decease, and to all who are interested in her property until the trust is released by which Mr. Moore became invested with her land—and should I be summoned to give my evidence on her behalf, it will become my duty then to repeat publicly the facts to which I have now thought it advisable to draw your attention in private. What the effect of such disclosures upon the public mind might be it is not necessary now to consider particularly; but certainly I do not think that these are the days in which authority, however high, can incur such a scandal with impunity.

* Mr. Moore reported at the time that he had proceeded to the spot to collect evidence and see the body the day after the murder.—V. B. *April* 22.

† Mr. Adams is quite aware that the Vizirial Order does not bear this construction.

I have now only to add that I have marked my envelope "Private and Confidential," in order that this letter may in the first instance fall into your hands alone; but I have not the slightest objection to your laying it, if you wish, before His Royal Highness, or any other person concerned in the affair—on the understanding of course that, should you decide so to act, you will apprise me of the step which you contemplate taking; and I shall have the honour of waiting upon you personally to-morrow (Tuesday), at 2·30, in case there is any observation that you may desire to address to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. MARSHAM ADAMS.

No. 45.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. A. Mills.

Foreign Office, April 15, 1880.

SIR JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE presents his compliments to Mr. Mills, and, in compliance with his wishes, is directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit a copy of a translation, made at this Office by Mr. Redhouse, of the Vizirial letter sent home by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, in 1866, in the course of correspondence on Mrs. Finn's case.*

Copies of the translation which Mr. Eldridge sent at the time, and of the one furnished by Mrs. Finn herself, are also inclosed.†

No. 46.

Mr. W. Adams to Lord Tenterden.—(Received April 20.)

My Lord, 13, *Overstone Road, Hammersmith, W., April* 19, 1880.

NOT having received from Sir Julian Pauncefote or from your Lordship the communication which Mr. Villiers led me to expect, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have written to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, inclosing copy of my letter to Sir Julian; and drawing His Royal Highness' attention to the fact that the secret instructions to Colonel Fraser with regard to the late Mr. Consul Finn were given by Mr. Meade, Secretary to His Royal Highness. I have pointed out, at the same time, that although the inquiry resulted in the unmerited disgrace of Mr. Finn as well as the dismissal of Mr. P. Meshullam, Colonel Fraser denied to Mr. Finn that he was concerned in the accusations, and refused to state the nature of the charges, or to give the names of the accusers, or to hear favourable evidence, even on behalf of Mr. P. Meshullam; that the result of the inquiry was accurately pre-

* No. 43.

† (No. 1.)—Mr. Eldridge's translation was inclosed in his despatch No. 9 of the 29th January, 1866, and is as follows:—

"*Translation of a Vizirial Order addressed to the Governor-General of Damascus, dated* 28 *Jemâd Evvel,* 1281 (*October* 17, o.s., 1280 = 1864).

"It has been brought to my notice that up to this time Mrs. Finn, wife of the late British Consul at Jerusalem, has not received the amount of indemnities promised to her which she claims for losses she sustained in 1857 on account of her house situated at Artas, and that although the Valley of Artas is exempted from property taxes, Mrs. Finn is being made to pay taxes on the said house.

"It has been therefore requested that the above claim for indemnity should be paid to her, and that she should enjoy the same exemption from paying taxes on her property above stated.

"I therefore desire that your Excellency will settle these points after an inquiry into the origin and grounds thereof, and report the result to me.

(Signed) "MOHAMMED FUAD."

(No. 2.)—Mrs. Finn's translation, as inclosed in her letter of the 15th May, 1865, is as follows:—

"It having been shown that the lady of the ex-Consul of Great Britain in Jerusalem has not yet received any indemnity for the losses sustained in the events that occurred at Urtas in 1857, and that notwithstanding that the Valley of Urtas should be exempt from taxes, the levying of taxes is still continued on the house belonging to the above-mentioned lady, I beg that you will take steps to indemnify the said lady, guided by the principles on which such questions have hitherto been based, and thus to make an arrangement of which you will inform me.

(Signed) (L.S.) "MOHAMMED FUAD.

"28 *Jemâd-el-Âkeir,* 1281 (*October* 7, o.s., 1280, A.D. 1864)."

dicted before His Royal Highness, reached Beyrout by an official who had been in constant attendance upon His Royal Highness during his visit to Jerusalem; that, immediately upon the receipt of Colonel Fraser's report an illegal attempt was made by Lord Russell to deprive Mr. P. Meshullam of the right to protection which, as a British subject, he possessed; that, in the judgment of Sir E. Hornby, Sureya Pasha, the Governor of Jerusalem, calculated upon the murder of Mr. P. Meshullam as likely to result after the proceedings of Colonel Fraser; that the murder did immediately take place as soon as Mr. Finn had quitted office and had been succeeded by Mr. Moore (Dragoman to His Royal Highness during his visit to Jerusalem); and that Mr. Consul Moore allowed both the murder of Mr. P. Meshullam and a subsequent attempt upon my own life and that of Mr. Finn's son—the two witnesses who proved the murder—to pass with impunity.

Mrs. Finn, unable to obtain justice through the medium of the Government, now contemplates invoking the action of law, for the vindication of her husband's memory, the redress of her own heavy wrongs, the punishment of her agent's murderers, and the dismissal from her Majesty's service of those who have so grossly betrayed the public interests. It will, of course, be my duty, alike as her representative and as the witness who discovered and established the still unpunished murder, to render her whatever assistance may lie in my power; but I have been anxious first to take every means towards bringing to your Lordship's knowledge the bearing of the principal facts of which I have become cognizant; and having done this, I must now allow matters to take their course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. MARSHAM ADAMS.

No. 47.

Memorandum by Mr. Buckley on Mr. W. Adams' Letters of April 12 and 19, 1880.

MR. ADAMS accompanied Mr. Arthur Mills when that gentleman recently came here to inspect certain papers connected with the Finn case. Sir J. Paunceforte desired me to let Mr. Mills see the papers, which are in bound volumes, and accordingly he and Mr. Adams looked over them. I cannot imagine that Mr. Mills would have allowed Mr. Adams to accompany him on this business if he had been aware that it was Mr. Adams' intention to write in the tone of his present letters. It is one thing to look at papers confidentially in order to become acquainted with the facts of the case: it is another to threaten to make use of the knowledge so acquired in the way that Mr Adams now does. As a matter of fact, however, Mr. Adams has found nothing but a mare's nest.

When the Prince of Wales visited the Holy Land in 1862, Mr. Peter Meshullam was Dragoman to Mr. Finn, the Consul at Jerusalem.

Mr. J. Meshullam, the Dragoman's father, wrote to General Bruce on the 5th April, 1862, complaining of the son's conduct in using his official position for the purpose of oppressing the father's friends, and stating that remonstrances addressed to Mr. Finn on the subject were ineffectual. Mr. Meshullam, senior, therefore begged for the Prince's interference with Mr. Finn to cause him to restrain his Dragoman from such proceedings as were complained of.

Besides this letter, there are two petitions on behalf of persons named Sabu Showhi and Salem Kafur, who were stated to have been imprisoned by Mr. Peter Meshullam, and to have been told, in reply to previous representations, that misconduct had been proved against them by him and by the Consul.

These petitions were sent to the Foreign Office by Mr. Meade at General Bruce's instigation. In doing so Mr Meade says: "General Bruce, on the part of His Royal Highness, of course declined to return any answer to these complaints, but, at the same time, the Prince of Wales could not entirely turn a deaf ear to statements of such a nature, or completely ignore their existence. Neither does the Prince wish to bring any complaint against Mr. Finn, as it would be very disagreeable to him to do so."

In a further letter Mr. Meade says: "I inquired into the whole business as carefully as I could, and I am of opinion that should you send any one there (like Fraser, for instance) he would have little difficulty in making out the case. Meshullam is carrying on things with a very high hand indeed, and our name is being used to cover most disgraceful transactions. He is entirely supported by Mr. and Mrs. Finn, who believe in him implicitly, and refuse to entertain any complaints against him."

Colonel Fraser was instructed to inquire into the matter, and was furnished with copies of the memorials which are described in the despatch to him as having been presented to the Prince of Wales. The despatch stated: "They (the memorials) contain, as you will perceive, serious imputations against the conduct of Mr. Peter Meshullam, the Cancellier of Mr. Consul Finn, and I wish you, therefore, to proceed to Jerusalem and make inquiries on the subject. I do not write to Mr. Finn, but you will show him this despatch as your authority for making the inquiries, and you will request him to afford you all facilities for carrying it out."

Colonel Fraser proceeded to inquire into the matter, and made his report from Beyrout on the 10th September, 1862. Colonel Fraser gave Mr. Finn a copy of his instructions, but did not show him the memorials inclosed in it, only intimating the general nature of the charges made, as he considered that a knowledge of who were Meshullam's accusers, would act prejudicially against them. Colonel Fraser endeavoured to persuade Mr. Finn to suspend Mr. Meshullam pending the inquiry; but Mr. Finn, for various reasons, declined to do this. When the inquiry was completed, however, on Colonel Fraser's informing Mr. Finn that some peasants had declared that the Dragoman had personally threatened them with future punishment should they make statements unfavourable to him, the Consul dismissed him "until the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government be ascertained in respect of his conduct."

As regards the main point, Colonel Fraser reported that he had "come to the conclusion that the charges contained in the petitions were in general well founded, that Mr. P. Meshullam had been able to carry out a system of oppression and spoliation towards the unfortunate peasantry, through the power he derived from his position in the British Consulate on the one hand, and from a servile deference to that position displayed by the local Governor when cases came officially before him on the other—Sureya Pasha doubtless influenced by the hope of thus inducing the Consul to make favourable reports of him to Constantinople. I feel no doubt that Mr. P. Meshullam's conduct would be equally condemned by your Lordship, whether judged by the documents presented by Mr. Finn, or on Mr. P. Meshullam's own account of his proceedings."

Mr. Finn sent home many very voluminous despatches on his general conduct and on the proceedings of his Dragoman; and Lord Russell addressed to him, on the 23rd October, 1862, a despatch as follows:—

"I do not think it necessary to enter into any minute examination of the details given in your despatches, but the general tenour of them clearly shows that Mr. Meshullam takes a very active part in local questions and disputes in which no British interest whatever is involved; and it cannot be doubted that the position which he has held in the British Consulate, and the close intimacy which seems to have existed between him and your family, must have invested him, in regard to such questions, with a degree of influence which it is very undesirable that any person in the employment of one of Her Majesty's Consuls should possess, and still less exercise. I am at a loss, indeed, to understand that it should not have occurred to yourself that Mr. Meshullam's official position and intimacy with your family might be turned to account by a person so mixed up with local questions, or, at all events, might cause those with whom he might have dealings to connect Her Majesty's Consuls with his proceedings. I need not, however, pursue these considerations further. It is sufficient for me to confirm your dismissal of Mr. Meshullam from employment in your Consulate: and in order to prevent any further misapprehension in regard to his connection with the Consulate, it is my direction that, if Mr. Meshullam is a native of Syria, he should no longer be considered as under British protection. I cannot, however, refrain, after having perused your despatches, from remarking that you appear to be under some misapprehension as to the precise nature of your duties as Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem. Those duties are limited to the protection of British interests, and it is no part of your duty to interfere in local disputes, or to meddle in the petty intrigues and misunderstandings among the inhabitants of the country in which you reside. But it is very clear, from your own statements, that you have allowed yourself to be involved in local squabbles to such an extent that I am constrained to say that, however innocent your intentions may have been, it is desirable, on account of the public service, that, on the earliest opportunity, you should be removed to some other post."

Mr. Finn was accordingly, shortly after this, transferred to the Consulate of the Dardanelles, a post which he was allowed to exchange for Erzeroum.

He never went there, however, and in 1865 the posts of Erzeroum and Diarbekir were amalgamated, and Mr. Finn was granted a compensation allowance at the rate of 221*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* After a good deal of correspondence, the following letter was addressed to Mr. Finn on the 28th February, 1866: "I am to state to you that his Lordship has learnt with much pain the condition to which you were reduced during that tenure [of the Consulship at Jerusalem]; but he is compelled to say that, after a careful investigation of all the circumstances connected with it, he can only come to the conclusion that your difficulties were mainly brought about by your own imprudence. You engaged in matters which had nothing to do with your Consular duties, and you involved yourself in complications which affected your position and caused you embarrassment. Beyond this, with a view of supplying your wants you entered into transactions of a usurious character such as to give evidence of a want of foresight which must necessarily preclude the Secretary of State from considering that you can advance any claim to indulgence on that score. With debts so incurred Lord Clarendon cannot deal, and his Lordship can in no way interfere between you and your creditors.

"With regard to Erzeroum, you are aware that that post was not directly conferred upon you, but that at your own request you were allowed to exchange the Consulship of the Dardanelles for it. Your health, however, was represented by your friends to be such that your life would be endangered if you proceeded to that place, and Her Majesty's Government, taking into consideration this special circumstance, decided, in your interest as well as in that of the public service, to amalgamate your Consulship with that of Diarbekir, and to allow you to retire on a compensation allowance.

"You have, therefore, received compensation for the abolition of your office, and you have no claim, as of right, to ask for anything further. Nevertheless, Lord Clarendon would be willing to take all the circumstances of your present unfortunate position into consideration, and to grant you an additional pension of 200*l.* a year, provided that this arrangement shall be a final settlement, and that you engage that no further representations shall be made to this Office by yourself or on your behalf."

Mr. Finn thanked Lord Clarendon on the 3rd March, 1866, for the extra pension, and added: "I derive the greater satisfaction from this concession, as it may be considered a sufficient answer to the injurious representations that have been advanced against me, and I thus accept it as a satisfactory close of my Consular life.

"I engage not to make or to sanction any further representation in regard to my claims on the Foreign Office, but to consider the additional pension now granted as a final settlement.

"Yet, in justice to myself, I must assure your Lordship that several representations have been made by kind and influential friends in my behalf without my previous knowledge."

I have been obliged to go at some length into this part of the subject, to show the unfounded inferences which Mr. Adams draws from the petitions having been sent home through the Prince of Wales. The charges in these petitions were clearly only against Mr. Meshullam, and Colonel Fraser's inquiry was only into his conduct, as far as the principal issue was concerned; but of course the proceedings of Mr. Finn as Meshullam's patron could not fail to come incidentally under consideration.

Mr. Adams thinks he makes a point in adverting to a marginal note on the instruction to Colonel Fraser, and jumps to the conclusion that "all the complaints" there mentioned included direct complaints against Mr. Finn with which the Consul was never acquainted. This, however, is not so. The marginal note in question must be read with Lord Russell's minute on the letter of Mr. Meade's forwarding the petition. Lord Russell wrote: "The father's complaint may be inquired into by Major Fraser." The instruction to Colonel Fraser is drafted in Lord Hammond's writing, and he put in the margin: "I conclude that Colonel Fraser had better inquire into all the complaints;" and Lord Russell added "Yes." It is evident, then, that this note refers to all the complaints against Meshullam which were contained in the three petitions, and was meant to suggest that Lord Russell's authority for an inquiry into the father's complaint should be extended to all the complaints against Meshullam. But there was no direct accusation against Mr. Finn himself, except, as I said before, in so far as he might be found to be either actually or morally responsible for his protégé's iniquities.

As regards the statements contained in the petitions, no doubt justice was satisfied, as far as that depended on the action of Her Majesty's Government, by Meshullam's

dismissal; but it by no means follows that the good of the public service did not require Mr. Finn's removal, on account of his proceedings which transpired incidentally in the course of the inquiry.

It is absurd to endeavour to blame the Prince of Wales for the indirect consequences of proceedings which any gentleman of position would have adopted under similar circumstances. The Prince received certain petitions containing grave charges affecting the employé of a British Consulate, and when he had forwarded them to head-quarters for investigation his responsibility in the matter was at an end.

It is clear, from the correspondence and from the minutes bound up with it, that Mr. Finn's removal was brought about less by Colonel Fraser's reports than by his own statements and admissions contained in his voluminous despatches; and the despatch to him which I have above quoted, and which announced Lord Russell's intention of removing him, is founded entirely on his own version of his proceedings. It was perhaps unfortunate that Colonel Fraser did not show him the petitions on which the inquiry into Meshullam's conduct was instituted. In not doing so Colonel Fraser acted advisedly, but the proceeding gives some excuse for the idea that there were direct charges against Mr. Finn, and that Colonel Fraser made an inquiry into them without giving him an opportunity of replying to them. The idea, however, cannot be supported by the evidence of the correspondence. Nor has Mr. Adams any right again to bring this forward now in the face of Mr. Finn's statement in his letter of the 3rd March, 1866, that he accepted the extra pension awarded to him as "a sufficient answer to the injurious representations that have been advanced against me," and as affording him a "satisfactory close of my Consular life." In the face of such language on Mr. Finn's part, it is difficult to see how Mr. Adams can now talk of Mr. Finn—"the unfortunate object of malevolence"—having received no intimation that his character had been cleared.

As regards the murderer of Peter Meshullam, the man who is generally supposed to have done the deed was arrested on account of Mr. Moore's and Sir E. Hornby's representations in 1864. He was tried and acquitted. On account of further representations he was again arrested in 1866. He was tried by a Special Commission and acquitted in 1867, but was only liberated from prison in 1869. Mr. Moore seems to have done all he could in the matter, and I do not see how he can be held responsible for the defects of Turkish administration of justice.

With respect to Mrs. Finn's money matters, I must refer to the accompanying printed papers,* which contain Sir J. Pauncefote's views on the subject, and show what has been done since he took the matter in hand. Sir E. Hornby's proceedings in 1863 seem to have left the matter in a not very satisfactory state, and I believe it was complicated by Mr. and Mrs. Finn going their own way to work to pay some debts independently of his decisions. It is very difficult to know what can now be done for Mrs. Finn in this respect. One thing I am pretty sure about, that the complaints of Mr. Moore being unwilling to help her and of having dealt improperly with money in his hands, are unfounded. He has positively denied them, and Mrs. Finn has produced no proof of them. I have no doubt that he would carry out any definite instructions that might be given to him on the subject, and that he would do whatever he could to assist any agent she might send out. It was with that view that in July last we recurred to our former advice to her to send an agent. It would, however, be worse than useless to send out a man like Mr. Adams, who evidently has a strong animus against Mr. Moore. He is evidently an unreasonable man, who adopts all Mrs. Finn's unreasonable views as his own, and would be the last man to work harmoniously with Mr. Moore.

Mr. Adams, to my mind, does not really deserve any answer at all, but I suppose it would be better on the whole to send him one.

I would suggest that he should be told that Lord Salisbury cannot now discuss the circumstances which led to the removal of Mr. Finn from Jerusalem, or those connected with the murder of Mr. Meshullam; that as regards Mrs. Finn's money matters, Lord Salisbury must refer to the letter sent to her on the 16th July last, exonerating Mr. Moore from blame, and stating that he would be instructed to assist any agent she may send to Syria; adding that such an agent should be possessed of some legal knowledge, and be prepared to act harmoniously with Mr. Moore.

V. B.

Foreign Office, April 21, 1880.

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* Nos. 1 to 40.

No. 48.

Mr. Lister to Mr. W. Adams.

Foreign Office, April 27, 1880.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 12th and 19th instant, in regard to various matters connected with the affairs of Mr. and Mrs. Finn.

In reply, I am to inform you that his Lordship does not think that any useful purpose would be served by reopening the discussion of matters bearing upon Mr. Finn's removal from the post of British Consul at Jerusalem, or the murder of Mr. Peter Meshullam.

As regards Mrs. Finn's pecuniary affairs in connection with land in Syria, I am to suggest that you should request Mrs Finn to allow you to read the letter addressed to her from this Office on the 16th July last, showing that Lord Salisbury, after due consideration, saw no reason to think that Mr. Consul Moore had failed in his duty in respect of those transactions.

In accordance with the concluding paragraph of that letter, instructions were sent to Mr. Moore to grant all proper assistance to any agent whom Mrs. Finn might appoint to prosecute her claims; and I am to add that it might be well if such an agent were a gentleman possessed of legal knowledge, who would be prepared to act harmoniously with Mr. Moore.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 49.

Mr. W. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received May 4.)

13, *Overstone Road, Hammersmith, May* 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour most respectfully to solicit your Lordship's attention to certain very grave circumstances connected with the murder of Mr. Peter Meshullam, which it fell to my lot in the first instance to detect and expose, and which has lately been again pressed upon my notice in a manner both singular and urgent. Many of the events which I shall have to mention occurred no doubt a long time ago; but their consequences still continue to be acutely felt, and many of the principal facts connected with them have been kept secret until now. In dealing with the case it will be best to preserve the order in which the events occurred, and afterwards to state the mode in which they were brought to my knowledge.

In order to render these matters clear, it is necessary to advert to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Jerusalem, and to certain petitions which he accepted during an expedition at which he had dispensed with the attendance of Mr. Finn, at that time Her Majesty's Consul for Jerusalem and Palestine. These petitions I inspected at the Foreign Office, at the commencement of last month, under circumstances which I will afterwards explain, and found them to contain charges against both Mr. Finn and Mr. P. Meshullam, who was at that time acting as Cancellier to Mr. Consul Finn, and as agent to Mrs. Finn for some property which she held at a place near Jerusalem called Urtâs.

The Prince did not mention the fact of his having received these petitions to either of the parties accused, though he afterwards honoured Mr. Finn with a personal visit, and invited Mr. P. Meshullam to join his party at Caifa, sending him round for that purpose in the royal yahet. But on the day of his arrival in London he presented them to Earl Russell, and his Lordship on the same day wrote instructions for a despatch to Colonel Fraser (then acting as Her Majesty's Commissioner at Beyrout), directing him to make an inquiry into the charges contained in the petitions.

The despatch itself, which formed Colonel Fraser's credentials for the inquiry, and was intended as the ostensible initiation of the proceedings, gave the name of the Cancellier alone as being the subject of the accusations, and made no allusion to that of the Consul. But on the original instructions a private memorandum was endorsed by Lord Russell bearing reference to a letter which was written a week before the Prince's arrival by his Secretary, Mr. Meade, and in which directions were given that the whole contents of the petitions, that is to say, the conduct of Mr. Finn as well as of Mr. P. Meshullam, should be made the subject of the investigations.

My Lord, I am sorry that it is necessary to mention such particulars, but it is impossible to render clear either the events which ensued or my own connection with them, unless these preliminary matters are perfectly plain.

In conducting the inquiry thus instituted, Colonel Fraser would appear, I regret to say, to have violated every principle of natural justice. He withheld the particulars of the charges; he refused to give the names of the accusers; and he would not hear favourable evidence even in behalf of Mr. P. Meshullam; while he denied altogether that the conduct of Mr. Finn was in any way the subject of the accusations. The mode in which the inquiry was conducted excited considerable indignation, and high officials, such as the Russian Bishop and the French Consul, endeavoured more than once to obtain an interview with Her Majesty's Commissioner, but in vain. At the close of this "inquiry" Mr. Finn was removed from his post in disgrace, his place being filled by Mr. Moore, who had been Interpreter to the Prince of Wales, and Mr. P. Meshullam was not merely dismissed from the Consular service, but an attempt was made by Lord Russell to deprive him of the legitimate right which, as a British subject, he possessed to British protection. As soon as these results were officially communicated, which was not until some time after they had become public through other channels, Mr. P. Meshullam petitioned Earl Russell, detailing the circumstances, and earnestly entreating for a fair inquiry, but he was peremptorily refused a hearing.

In the following March, Mr. Moore having arrived in Jerusalem, Mr. Finn gave up to him his office, and the next day Mr. P. Meshullam was murdered by men belonging to the tribe of a certain Arab Sheikh, Salem Shaktoor, whose name appears amongst those appended to the petitions presented by the Prince to Earl Russell. The murder was discovered and fully established by myself, but Mr. Moore entirely neglected the steps necessary for the punishment of the criminals. In especial he declined, though Coroner, to view the body of the murdered man; he absented himself from the official examination of the localities—an occasion of the highest importance in relation to the evidence—and he twice refused point blank to pursue a certain line of inquiry lest it should compromise a particular person, whose name I have not mentioned in this letter. A subsequent attempt upon the lives of myself and of Mr. Finn's son, who had been concerned in the identification of the criminals, was likewise suffered by Mr. Moore to pass with impunity, though he fully recognized the danger to our lives which still continued to exist from the conspiracy formed against us.

Upon my arrival in England I represented these matters, through Lord Dufferin, at the Foreign Office, at the same time drawing attention, as Mr. Finn had requested me, to the condition of his pecuniary affairs, which had fallen into embarrassment on account of the salary of the Consulate being inadequate for its expenses, and of the difficulties which had been caused to him after the inquiry of Colonel Fraser, and in consequence of these representations Lord Russell thereupon directed Sir Edmund Hornby to proceed to Jerusalem for their investigation. Of this mission Mr. Finn received no intimation from his Lordship, and he was on the point of leaving Palestine, but fortunately he met Sir Edmund at Jaffa and returned with him for the inquiry.

Sir Edmund reported that the charges which had caused Mr. Finn's removal were entirely slanders, and that his embarrassments had been greatly aggravated by the action of the Prince of Wales, and he drew up a deed of composition with Mr. Finn's creditors, vesting his land and a considerable portion of his salary in Mr. Consul Moore as his trustee, which, by the authority of Earl Russell, he compelled Mr. Finn to accept under threat of immediate dismissal.

He also reported, in a different despatch, that the murder of M. P. Meshullam had been established by the clearest testimony, and that he had left positive instructions with Mr. Moore to prosecute the murderers.

The inspection of these papers was sedulously denied both to the late Lord Lytton on my behalf, and afterwards to Lord Shaftesbury, who was informed by the Foreign Office that Sir Edmund had never reported at all. But at last, after nearly seventeen years, I obtained access to them quite lately, under circumstances which I shall now explain.

Shortly after the events took place which I have just described, I left England for a considerable period, and by a curious coincidence Sir Edmund Hornby, who soon after making his Report had been removed to Hong Kong, met me as I was passing through Ceylon, and expressed to me his indignation at the conduct of Mr. Moore. I heard, however, no more of the affair for a very long time, during which interval

Mr. Finn died. But last year Lord Salisbury, in answer to certain charges of misconduct which Mrs. Finn alleged against Mr. Moore, suggested to her that she should appoint some agent to settle her affairs, and she requested me to act as her Representative. To this request I at once acceded and at the beginning of last month, in company with Mr. Mills, late M.P. for Exeter, I inspected the Reports and other documents to which I have now made reference.

As soon as I had perused these documents, I wrote on my own account to Sir Julian Pauncefote, in whose charge they were preserved, laying before him the circumstances which had been brought to my knowledge, in the hopes that Her Majesty's Government, when fully apprised of the state of the case, would have perceived the propriety of taking action, without the necessity of my further interference. No reply reached me until the 28th ultimo, when Mr. Lister informed me that Lord Salisbury was unwilling to deal with the questions of the removal of Mr. Finn and the murder of Mr. Meshullam, but that if Mrs. Finn would confine herself to the settlement of her pecuniary affairs in Syria, Mr. Moore had received orders to give her every assistance, and suggested that she should choose a representative possessed of legal knowledge and prepared to act harmoniously with Mr. Moore.

Your Lordship will, I am sure, excuse me for saying that this is not a message of which I can permit myself to be made the vehicle. I cannot consent to take any part in advising Mrs. Finn to disregard the vindication of her husband's memory, when I have seen the evidence which shows that he was subjected in secret to unjust accusations, and was disgraced publicly on account of false and slanderous charges, nor to pass over the removal of her husband and the murder of her agent, while no explanation has been afforded of the secret and extraordinary measures which resulted in the removal of Mr. Finn from the position in which he was enabled to protect the life of Mr. P. Meshullam, and while no penalty has been exacted for the murder, which was committed on the very day after Mr. Finn had been removed from that position. Nor can I advise her to choose another representative, so long as she continues to honour me with her confidence, still less that he should be one "prepared to act harmoniously" with an officer whom she considers that she has reason to accuse of grave dereliction of trust in regard to her own pecuniary affairs, and I have reason to accuse of the betrayal of public interests through gross neglect of his duty in a case of murder. And I cannot adequately express my astonishment that a diplomatist of Lord Salisbury's eminence, while not venturing to challenge a single fact which I alleged, should have the courage to put forward such a proposal and such a condition.

So far, indeed, am I from sharing his Lordship's sentiments, that I cannot remain insensible to the duty which it now becomes incumbent upon me to perform. It was I, my Lord, who first detected the marks which betrayed that the crime had been committed. It was I whose testimony established it. It was I whose action prevented it from being stifled by the apathy or reluctance alike of Mr. Consul Moore and of the Turkish authorities. It was I to whom Mr. Moore refused to perform his duty as Coroner. It was I to whom he pretended to have delegated his authority as Consul, when I remonstrated with him for his absence from the official inspection of the localities. It was I to whom he twice refused to pursue a line of evidence lest it might compromise a particular person. It was I for whose life, in connection with that of Mr. Finn's son, an ambush was laid and a conspiracy formed as soon as we had exposed the murder. It was I to whom Mr. Moore admitted the danger to our lives while omitting to procure for Mr. Finn the protection which he demanded from assassination. It is I whose representations caused the mission of Sir Edmund Hornby; and it is I, too, who, after these documents have been withheld for seventeen years, have at last obtained access to them and become possessed of the secret history of the case.

Under these circumstances there is but one course for me to pursue without betraying my duty both to the living and the dead. Murder appears to me a crime which no lapse of time can condone, and which no consideration, public or private, can excuse a witness from exposing to the very utmost of his power. So long as Sir Edmund's Report was withheld from my inspection, it was not possible for me to take further proceedings; and even after perusing it I was still in hopes that a mere recital of the circumstances might cause Her Majesty's Government to take action for themselves. But now that your Lordship's predecessor has informed me that the murder of one British subject, and the conspiracy against the lives of two others, of whom I myself was one, are matters which it is not advisable to notice; that the officer who allowed the criminals to escape is to be protected from all inquiry; and that no reason

is to be assigned for the utter contempt with which the Report of Her Majesty's Special Commissioner has been treated; I can no longer refrain from bringing these matters into public notice.

My Lord, these are very grave and serious imputations, and they cannot be preferred and retracted at pleasure, as Lord Salisbury would have me believe. If Mr. Moore can clear himself of all blame, no one will rejoice more sincerely than myself, for it is with the greatest reluctance that I assume the office of accuser, especially against one from whom I myself, in all personal matters, experienced nothing but courtesy. But as the case now stands such a vindication is impossible except after full and open investigation; and however that may be, I should no more be justified in allowing the question to lapse now than I was at the first moment of discovery. I have, therefore, most respectfully to solicit that an official inquiry, to which I myself shall have full opportunity of access, be held upon the conduct of Mr. Consul Moore in regard to the whole of these matters; and that he be suspended from his duties as Consul until the Report of the Commission be received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. ADAMS.

No. 50.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. W. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 7, 1880.*

EARL GRANVILLE has considered your letter of the 3rd instant, as well as your previous letters of the 12th and 19th ultimo, respecting various circumstances bearing upon, and incidental to, the removal of Mr. Finn from the post of Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, the murder of Mr. Peter Meshullam, and the pecuniary transactions of Mrs. Finn with reference to property in Syria.

I am now directed by his Lordship to acquaint you that he sees no reason to add anything to the letter which was addressed to you on these subjects on the 27th ultimo, by the direction of the Marquis of Salisbury.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 51.

Mr. W. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord, 13, *Overstone Road, Hammersmith, May 12, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 7th instant (by Sir Julian Pauncefote) declining to institute an inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Consul Moore in connection with the murder of Mr. Peter Meshullam, and adopting the suggestion made by the Marquis of Salisbury, as to which I was under the impression that I had already conveyed my opinion in a manner sufficiently clear.

In reply, I beg to repeat that which I have already endeavoured to point out in the most respectful language at my command, namely, that I am unable to perceive the distinction, obvious as it may be to your Lordship, between the course proposed and the practical condonation of the crime of murder, and that therefore the suggestion is one in which I cannot permit myself to acquiesce. And, further, I would submit that apart altogether from this question, it is difficult for me to understand in what way the tender of advice of whatsoever kind relative to the private and pecuniary affairs of Mrs. Finn can form an answer, I will not say adequate, but in any respect relevant to a simple demand, publicly and directly preferred, for an official inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Consul Moore in relation to the murder of Mr. Peter Meshullam.

And now, my Lord, I must be permitted to remark, that while there are many points in this affair which may well excite surprise and even distress, there is none which appears to me so surprising and so distressing as the position which your Lordship has thought fit to take up. The affectation by his Royal Highness of cordiality and peculiar respect towards those whose disgrace and ruin must have been already present to his contemplation; the obsequious indorsement by Lord Russell for public

purposes of instructions previously given in private by the Prince's Secretary; the ingenuity of the devices by which Mr. Finn was studiously kept in the dark as to the inquisition which was being carried on against himself; the novel and most iniquitous manner in which the inquisition was conducted; the attempt to deprive the unfortunate victim of his legitimate right to British protection; the groundless removal of Mr. * from that particular post; the bestowal of that appointment upon his Royal Highness' interpreter, who had been privy to the intrigue by which the ejection of Mr. Finn was accomplished; the murder which so speedily followed his accession to office, the impunity which has been accorded to the murderers, the easy carelessness with which the consequent conspiracy against two more British subjects was glossed over by the authorities; the total disregard which Mr. Moore has been permitted to exhibit for the instructions of his superior; the persistent refusal of all papers for so many years, although that refusal entailed the perpetuation of unmerited disgrace upon a deserving officer until the officials who were cognisant of the original circumstances had passed away from the Foreign Office; the amazing proposition put forward by Lord Salisbury when at last these secrets were brought to light;—all these occurrences, I say, are strange and perplexing enough; but they do not seem to me so ominous and so unaccountable as that a statesman of your Lordship's high character and long experience should treat a public allegation of gross and glaring misconduct made against a public servant in the light of a mere incident in the settlement of private and pecuniary affairs; as though neither the interests of the public nor the honour of Her Majesty's Consul were matters of sufficient importance to merit your Lordship's attention. My letter I repeat, my Lord, contained an official demand for a public investigation into charges of a most serious nature brought by me against an officer still holding the position of Consul in Her Majesty's service, and to reply to that demand as though the arrangement of any private interests would be a proper or an effectual answer appears to me an act of levity almost amounting to insult.

As, however, I gather from your Lordship's letter, that where a British subject has been murdered, and an attack has been made upon the lives of the witnesses, themselves also British subjects, in consequence of the testimony which they gave, it is, in your Lordship's opinion, a matter of indifference whether or not Her Majesty's Consul take the necessary measures for bringing the criminals to justice; and that should he refrain from so doing, in spite of the clearest evidence and most positive instructions from one of Her Majesty's Judges, expressly commissioned to investigate the circumstances; still his negligence in the protection of British life would not be considered by Her Majesty's Government to call for particular notice; but that he will be suffered to retain his post without the institution of any inquiry into his conduct, even when demand for it is officially preferred by one of the witnesses whose life was nearly sacrificed through his dereliction of duty, I feel that it would be idle for me to trouble your Lordship with further discussion. But since these are matters which closely affect the interests of all British subjects travelling abroad, I will take steps for bringing to the notice of Parliament and of the general public the correspondence which has passed between your Lordship and myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. ADAMS.

No. 52.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. W. Adams.

Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant relating to matters connected with the affairs of the late Mr. Finn and the death of Mr. Peter Meshullam.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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* Omission *in orig.*

No. 53.

Mr. W. M. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

4, Surrey Villas, Upper Norwood, S.E., July 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE carefully perused the returns in the Meshullam case ("Turkey, No. 8"), which Mr. Frith lately obtained at my instance, and I venture most respectfully to ask of your Lordship the favour of a personal interview.

I will not trouble your Lordship with long explanations; but a very onerous and difficult duty, which may possibly affect the reputation of many persons, has devolved upon me, and I feel that, if your Lordship would have the great kindness to see me, I could shape my course far more easily in furtherance of the ends of justice, and with greater consideration for all parties concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. ADAMS.

No. 54.

Mr. Sanderson to Mr. W. M. Adams.

Foreign Office, July 10, 1880.

Sir,

I AM desired by Lord Granville to state, in reply to your letter, that his Lordship regrets that he is unable to fix a time for seeing you.

He would be glad if you would address to him in writing any observations you may wish to make.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.